

Silicon Times Report

"The Original Independent Online Magazine"
(Since 1987)

November 07, 1997

No.1344

Silicon Times Report International Magazine
Post Office Box 6672
Jacksonville, Florida 32205-6155

R.F. Mariano, Editor
STR Publishing, Inc.
Voice: 1-904-292-9222 10am-5pm EST
FAX: 904-268-2237 24hrs
STReport WebSite <http://www.streport.com>

STR Publishing's FTP Support Server
10gb - Back Issues - Patches - Support Files
(Continually Updated)
<ftp.streport.com>
Anonymous Login ok - Use your Email Address as a Password

Check out STReport's NEWS SERVER
NEWS.STREPORT.COM

Have you tried Microsoft's Powerful and Easy to Use Internet Explorer 4.0?
Internet Explorer 4.0 is STReport's Official Internet Web Browser.

STReport is prepared and published Using
MS Office 97, Corel Office Perfect 8 & Adobe Acrobat Pro 3

Featuring a Full Service Web Site
<http://www.streport.com>
Voted TOP TEN Ultimate WebSite
Join STReport's Subscriber List receive STReport
Via Email on The Internet

Toad Hall BBS 1-978-670-5896

11/07/97 STR 1344 Celebrating Our Tenth Anniversary 1987-97!

- CPU Industry Report	- Seagate 47gb HD	- High Speed Macs
- New Modem 112Kbps!	- Laptops Nixed Again	- No NET TAX
- GW2K ISP Rate Bargain?	- STReport Mail Call	- IBM \$999 PC
- Crash B'Coot II Sony PS	- People Talking	- Classics & Gaming

Hatch Slams - Pressures Microsoft
Power Computing Merger Delayed
Hydra, Win 98 Public betas RSN

STReport International Magazine
Featured Weekly
"Accurate UP-TO-DATE News and Information"
Current Events, Original Articles, Tips, Rumors, and Information
Hardware - Software - Corporate - R & D - Imports

Please obtain the latest issue from our Auto Subscription, Web Site or FTP Site. Enjoy the wonder and excitement of exchanging all types of useful information relative to all computer types, worldwide, through the use of the Internet. All computer enthusiasts, hobbyist or commercial, on all platforms and BBS systems are invited to participate.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

STReport, with its policy of not accepting any input relative to content from paid advertisers, has over the years developed the reputation of "saying it like it really is". When it comes to our editorials, product evaluations, reviews and over-views, we shall always keep our readers interests first and foremost. With the user in mind, STReport further pledges to maintain the reader confidence that has been developed over the years and to continue "living up to such". All we ask is that our readers make certain the manufacturers, publishers etc., know exactly where the information about their products appeared. In closing, we shall arduously endeavor to meet and further develop the high standards of straight forwardness our readers have come to expect in each and every issue.

The Publisher, Staff & Editors

STReport
Celebrating Our Tenth Anniversary!
1987-1997

Florida Lotto - LottoMan v1.35

Results: 10/25/97: four of six numbers with three 3 number matches

>From the Editor's Desk...

Unbelievable!! One Nimrod jumps on MS's case and now, we see a veritable stampede! It's easy to understand why most of them are doing so but to see a very well known and respected Senator do the very same thing is incredible! Sen Orin Hatch. R-Utah head of the Judiciary Committee has made it abundantly clear that he too.. Is in pursuit of MS. I have had the utmost of respect for the good Senator from Utah for many years. I've observed Him in action many times. Especially during the Ollie North Iran/Contra hearings, odd though Orin Hatch never insisted upon calling Reagan or Bush. Or, when He was in pursuit of pirates who were allegedly decimating Word Perfect Corp. everyone "cheered" but few realized WP Corp. was one of Hatch's constituents. You did know that Word Perfect Corp. at one time, a long time ago.. was based in Utah?

In any case, I have but one burning question for the Good Senator from Utah. Sen. Hatch, why is it we see you in "hot" pursuit of Bill Gates and Microsoft for all sorts of "unfair" competitive business practices at this time... Yet what seems like only yesterday. we watched Word Perfect Corp. blaze new superhighways in the world of corporate cannibalism? You never made a peep about or even referenced the actions of Word Perfect Corp. when they were alive and well, based in Orem Utah, putting many programmers and smaller companies involved in word processor development out of business by either buying them up or simply crushing them?? Why is it you now find Microsoft's alleged actions relative to offering many faceted programs offensive when in fact is was Word Perfect Corp. who literally wrote the

rule book about offering "bundled" products like Word Perfect, Paradox, etc., all in one neat, competition crushing, package??

Of Special Note:

<http://www.streport.com>
<ftp.streport.com>

STReport is now ready to offer much more in the way of serving the Networks, Online Services and Internet's vast, fast growing site list and userbase. We now have our very own WEB/FTP Site, do stop by and have a look see. Since We've received numerous requests to receive STReport from a wide variety of Internet addressees, we were compelled to put together an Internet distribution/mailing list for those who wished to receive STReport on a regular basis, the file is ZIPPED, then UUENCODED. Unfortunately, we've also received a number of opinions that the UUENCODING was a real pain to deal with. You'll be pleased to know you are able to download STReport directly from our very own FTP SERVER or WEB Site. While there, be sure to join our STR AutoMailer list which allows a choice of either ASCII or Acrobat PDF.

STReport's managing editors

DEDICATED TO SERVING YOU!

Ralph F. Mariano, Publisher - Publisher, Editor
Dana P. Jacobson, Editor, Current Affairs

Section Editors

PC Section
R.F. Mariano

Mac Section
Randy Noak

Shareware Listings
Lloyd E. Pulley

Classics & Gaming
Dana P. Jacobson

Kid's Computing Corner
Frank Sereno

STReport Staff Editors

Michael R. Burkley
Vincent P. O'Hara

Joseph Mirando

Victor Mariano
Glenwood Drake

Contributing Correspondent Staff

Jason Sereno
David H. Mann
Brian Boucher

Jeremy Sereno
Angelo Marasco

Daniel Stidham
Donna Lines
Leonard Worzala

Please submit ALL letters, rebuttals, articles, reviews, etc., via E-Mail w/attachment to:

Internet	rmariano@streport.com
STR FTP	ftp.streport.com
WebSite	http://www.streport.com

STReport Headline News

LATE BREAKING INDUSTRY-WIDE NEWS

Weekly Happenings in the Computer World

Compiled by: Dana P. Jacobson

E-Mags Halloween Hoax Slammed

A Halloween hoax on the World Wide Web is drawing grumbles from some visitors to PC World Online, the Internet version of PC World magazine. The site in question greets visitors with the message, "Shall we unleash the virus now?" Naturally, PC World says chill! It's just good, clean fun! However, ethics experts say the joke is in bad taste in today's workplace, "like yelling 'fire' in a crowded theater," director W. Michael Hoffman of the Center for Business Ethics at Bentley College in Waltham, Massachusetts, told Associated Press writer Eileen Glanton. "It's a bad practical joke."

Glanton notes the fake virus warning will be accompanied by a program that appears to delete files and another message that says, "I've got your credit-card number here." Also, "a host of error messages (are) part of a hoax created by the magazine's monthly columnist Gil Bates. Get it? Gil Bates? Like Bill Gates?" AP says the offerings range from the truly harmless, like Halloween-themed screen savers, "to the alarming, like an authentic-looking 'Windows Meltdown in Progress' warning." Oh, says hoax author Matthew Lake, "most people will get a charge out of it." Executive editor Yael Li-Ron says a similar feature for April Fool's Day garnered scores of complimentary e-mail messages, with only a few critics.

Internet to Get Au Pair Ruling

Here's a first: The Massachusetts judge who is weighing the decision of whether to throw out the murder conviction of a British au pair is expected to post his decision on the Internet's World Wide Web, perhaps as early as today. The reason for going first to the Net? Judge Hiller B. Zobel apparently is worried that making paper copies available to reporters would overwhelm court clerks since interest in the case has been so high. "Although rulings have been made available on the Internet before," says Associated Press writer Richard Lorant, "this is believed to be the first time media outlets have been told they wouldn't be able to get a hard copy." Director John Pavlik of Columbia University's Center for New Media told the wire service, "I think it's unprecedented. I don't know of any other judge who's issued an opinion that way."

Sources in Cambridge, Mass., say Judge Zobel could make his ruling as soon as today in the case of 19-year-old Louise Woodward. He heard arguments yesterday from attorneys asking him to overturn a jury's second-degree murder verdict against Woodward or at least reduce it to manslaughter. Lorant reports Zobel initially planned to post the ruling exclusively on a Web site operated by Lawyer's Weekly (<http://www.lawyersweekly.com>), though later plans call for him to send it via e-mail to a dozen news outlets, with the understanding that they would post it on the World Wide Web.

Soon after the Lawyer's Weekly Web site address was made public, it experienced a "massive overload," said newspaper spokesman David L. Yas. Adds Lorant, "Select Supreme Court rulings, such as Roe vs. Wade and New York Times vs. Sullivan, have been available online for several years, but few new rulings are posted immediately. The first opinion made available on the Internet was a 1996 ruling by a federal appeals court that struck down the Communication Decency Act as unconstitutional."

Senate Panel OKs Net Tax Ban

A controversial bill to restrict states and localities from imposing new taxes on Internet services has received overwhelmingly approval from a key

U.S. Senate committee. The Reuter News Service notes the 14-5 vote by the Senate Commerce Committee "followed warnings by opposing committee members that the bill would greatly disadvantage Main Street businesses facing mounting competition from electronic commerce." The bill -- revised in 20 places to address fears of cities and rural areas -- would:

- ' • Impose a moratorium ending Jan. 1, 2004, on state and local taxes of Internet access and online services.
 - ' • Makes clear what taxes are exempt from the moratorium, including sales and use taxes, property and business license taxes, and growth or net income taxes. Chairman John McCain (R- Arizona), a co-sponsor of the bi
- ll,
- ad
- for
- told the wire service, "I recognize we have some significant hurdles ahead of us. But the future of America rests on this technology. I would hate for us to choke this baby in the cradle."

Referring to curbing impediments to Internet growth, McCain added, "This is a global economy we live in today. If we don't do it, then our competitors will." On the other side of the issue, Sen. Slade Gorton (R- Washington) said, "This bill is a tremendous threat to Main Street merchants," adding it would be "a terrible error" to treat Internet sales the way the United States currently treats mail order sales, which also are exempt from many taxes. Reuters notes similar legislation has been cleared by subcommittees of the House Judiciary and Commerce panels.

Meanwhile, the Newsbytes computer news service quotes the measure's co-sponsor, Ron Wyden (D-Oregon), as saying, "The Internet will be the business infrastructure of the 21st century. To subject it to as many as 30,000 taxing jurisdictions applying different rules of taxation would be a mistake." Wyden said the bill is not expected to reach the Senate floor vote before Friday's congressional recess, he is optimistic the bill would pass the full Senate early next year. Joining McCain and Wyden in backing the bill are Conrad Burns (R-Montana) and John Kerry (D-Massachusetts). House Republican Policy Committee Chairman Christopher Cox (R-California) sponsored the bill in the House of Representatives.

Senate Says NO to Laptops

By a voice vote, the Senate Rules Committee has rejected Wyoming Sen. Michael Enzi's request for permission to bring his laptop into the chamber during debates. "The reason was the Senate's love and respect for its numerous and sometimes obscure traditions," observes Associated Press writer Cassandra Burrell. For instance:

Every senator's desk still is equipped with a pencil tray, an inkwell and a shaker filled with blotting sand.

Though not used, two large spittoons are kept on the floor near the front of the room. Two snuff boxes are kept filled with fresh snuff, "in compliance," says Burrell, "with a law passed decades ago when a senator became irate after finding one empty."

At issue here were Senate rules that forbid use of mechanical devices of any sort on the floor or anything that may threaten decorum. Senators must seek permission to bring calculators onto the floor during budget debates. Just before yesterday's vote, Kentucky Sen. Wendell Ford commented, "There may be a time when laptop computers are necessary, but that time is not yet here."

Some senators expressed concern about the noise that would be created by

fingers tapping on 50 computer keyboards. "And others," says Burrell, "have said that the social dynamics and interpersonal relationships of the Senate -- where it takes just one senator to derail legislation or hold up a nomination -- could be diminished by computerized communication via impersonal laptops." Enzi said he was disappointed, but not surprised by the vote, adding he isn't giving up on trying to drag the Senate into the computer age.

Companies Struggle With Web

A new study finds that while more U.S. consumer goods manufacturers are establishing World Wide Web sites, most are still struggling to determine how to use the technology as a means of conducting business and building better relationships with their trading partners. The study, conducted by Computer Sciences Corp. and Consumer Goods Manufacturer magazine, finds that 62 percent of consumer goods manufacturers have a presence on the Internet -- up from 33 percent in last year's study -- while just 36 percent have not established a Web site.

Leading the way in cyberspace is the non-food packaged goods segment, with 81 percent of respondents reporting an Internet presence. The fashion segment, which includes manufacturers of apparel and footwear, had the lowest percentage of respondents (55 percent) reporting a corporate Web site.

Regardless of segment, a large majority of respondents stated that their Web sites function strictly as an "electronic brochure" with little or no emphasis on relationship-building or online commerce. The top three applications of respondents' Web sites, finds the study, are corporate image building (48 percent), product information communication (39 percent) and specific product advertising (34 percent). More interactive functions are at the list's bottom: consumer feedback (16 percent), trading partner collaboration (10 percent) and online shopping (3 percent).

"The Internet can be humbling and, many times, a money pit," says Mike Klaus, managing director of Computer Science's consumer goods retail consulting practice, based in Cleveland. "The business community typically has a difficult time defining specific needs until they see something tangible. It is therefore important for companies to understand that they only will be able to offer enticing interactive commerce if they embrace clear collaboration between business and information systems at multiple levels of the organization -- all with an eye toward meeting customer needs."

AOL Claims 'Spamster' Victory

America Online Inc. says a federal court has granted a preliminary injunction in its lawsuit to stop Over the Air Equipment Inc. from sending unsolicited bulk e-mail, also known as "spam," to AOL members. On Friday, the U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia, found that AOL's efforts to block spam, including its efforts to obtain a court order against Over the Air Equipment, were in the public interest and that there was a substantial likelihood that AOL would prevail on its claims of trespass and violations of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act against Over the Air Equipment. The court's order, which takes effect immediately, bars Over the Air Equipment from sending any unsolicited e-mail to AOL members.

"We've won the first round in our fight against unsolicited junk e-mail but the battle continues," says George Vradenburg, senior vice president and general counsel of America Online. "From the outset we've believed that the

law was on our side in our legal efforts to stem the tide of unsolicited junk e-mails targeted at AOL members. The court's ruling reinforces that belief and gives us a powerful weapon to use in our continuing campaign against junk e-mail." AOL filed its suit against Las Vegas-based Over the Air Equipment on October 2, 1997. According to the suit, Over the Air Equipment used deceptive practices, including falsifying e-mail transmission data, to avoid AOL's mail controls and to repeatedly transmit vast quantities of unsolicited e-mail to AOL members.

Microsoft Hearing Set for Dec. 5

Dec. 5 has been set for hearing of the U.S. Justice Department's anti-trust case against Microsoft Corp. The Reuter News Service reports U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson has ordered Microsoft to respond in writing to government allegations by Nov. 10. The government must respond by Nov. 20. As reported, the government alleges Microsoft violated a 1995 consent decree by forcing PC makers to feature its Internet Explorer Web browser over the products of rival Netscape Communications Corp. In that decree, Microsoft agreed not to tie the purchase of one product to another but retained the right to develop new, integrated products. The Justice Department contends the browser is separate from the Windows 95 operating system, while Microsoft says that the browser is an integral part of the operating system.

Sen. Orrin Hatch Slams Microsoft

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch has criticized what he characterizes as Microsoft Corp.'s efforts to dominate the Internet. Lending support to the Justice Department's pending antitrust suit, the Utah Republican is quoted in The Wall Street Journal this morning as saying, "Microsoft now has the ability to virtually annihilate any competitive product it wants by bringing it into the next version of Windows. There's evidence that they are aggressively seeking to extend that monopoly to the Internet, and policy makers have to be concerned about it."

Journal reporter John R. Wilke notes Hatch's powerful committee, which oversees the Justice Department, will air some of these concerns in a Senate hearing yesterday on the Internet and electronic commerce. "His rising alarm about Microsoft's market power," adds the paper, "gives bipartisan political support to the new antitrust chief, Joel Klein, as he presses the government's charges that the company violated a 1995 antitrust settlement."

By contrast, many Republicans attacked the Clinton administration Justice Department in that original 1995 case, contending it was trying to hobble American technological prowess. Meanwhile, Kevin Arquit, a former Federal Trade Commission official, told Wilke he will testify at the hearing that Microsoft is poised to dominate information and commerce on the Internet.

Says Arquit, "Microsoft is maintaining a monopoly in the operating system and extending it into new areas. If they control content on the Internet, they can control the information people get, and that is a serious public policy concern." As reported, Microsoft executives deny they have violated antitrust law and dispute Justice Department charges they violated the 1995 settlement. Hatch told Wilke the hearing isn't intended to bash Microsoft, adding, "We're witnessing a historic technological revolution," and such changes might require new laws. "Congress has to strengthen the antitrust laws from time to time, and this could be one of those times," he said. But he emphasized that he has no plans for legislation and current law is sufficient "if it's enforced, and I have great confidence in Joel Klein."

The Journal says Klein's investigation "reaches beyond" the petition he filed last month alleging that Microsoft illegally forced computer makers that buy its Windows operating system to accept its Internet browser software as well. That would violate part of the 1995 settlement that prohibits tying other products to Windows. "People familiar with the matter," Wilke reports, "say the latest antitrust inquiry includes Microsoft's exclusive relationships with providers of Internet content, such as entertainment Web pages, as well as continuing inquiries into Microsoft's acquisitions of 'video streaming' technology and its Apple Computer Inc. investment. The Senate Judiciary Committee is also looking broadly into Microsoft's business practices, including exclusive licensing agreements with Web content providers."

Hatch Still Pressuring Microsoft

Opening today's hearings about competition on the Internet, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee reiterated his concerns about the dominance of Microsoft Corp. Says Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), "The government certainly should not use antitrust law to make winners and losers in the marketplace, but it should use ... (antitrust laws) to ensure that it is the consumers who get to pick the winners and losers." Associated Press writer Rob Wells quotes the senator as saying, "I have not made any secret of the fact that I have serious concerns about Microsoft's recent efforts to exercise its monopoly power, and that I plan to continue to examine the company's practices." As reported earlier, Hatch told The Wall Street Journal, "Microsoft now has the ability to virtually annihilate any competitive product it wants by bringing it into the next version of Windows."

Wells reports that at today's hearings, Hatch said the committee intends to explore the fast-growing high technology business and will attempt to assess how antitrust and intellectual property laws should be applied. Microsoft, which was not scheduled to testify at the hearing, has defended the marketing of its Internet browser as a lawful business activity.

Power Computing Merger Delayed

Apple Computer Inc.'s proposed merger with Power Computing Corp. reportedly has been delayed by a federal antitrust review. Reporting from Round Rock, Texas, The Associated Press quotes John Teets, Power Computing's corporate counsel, as saying U.S. attorneys may be using the review to look for evidence in the U.S. Justice Department's case against Microsoft Corp.

Teets told the wire service the attorneys in San Francisco have asked for thousands of items including some that have little to do with Apple's acquisition of Power Computing's key assets, adding, "It appears that they're fishing for something more than our transaction with Apple. It appears to pertain to their ongoing investigation of Microsoft." AP notes a provision of federal law known as the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act requires review by either the Justice Department or the Federal Trade Commission of corporate mergers or acquisitions valued at more than \$15 million. Characteristically, the Justice Department is being less than verbose, but spokeswoman Gina Talamona did confirm the U.S. government is reviewing the deal between Apple and Power Computing.

As reported, the agreement calls for Apple to pay \$100 million in common stock for Power Computing's database of customers, intellectual property and other major assets. Power Computing, once a Mac clone maker, is winding down its Macintosh business by the end of the year. The delay in executing the agreement is slowing Power Computing's move into the IBM-compatible

laptop business.

Cyber-Libel Case Advances

Business Week has asked a trial judge to dismiss a \$1 billion libel suit that some observers say may set a precedent in online publishing. The magazine seeks the dismissal of the suit, brought by stock picker Julian H. Robertson Jr., because it had been more than a year since Business Week put the article online. (New York's libel law has a one-year statute of limitations for suing.)

At issue, says Associated Press writer Chris Allbritton, is an article entitled, "The Fall of the Wizard of Wall Street," which appeared online March 21, 1996, and in print in Business Week the next day. Robertson sued on March 24, 1997, which, once a weekend is counted, falls a year and a day after the online publication date. Attorney Floyd Abrams, representing Business Week, says the statute-of-limitations clock started ticking as soon as the article appeared online because the online and print versions were identical.

However, attorney Steven G. Brody, on board for Robertson, contends Business Week's position "is wrong and a technicality designed to avoid responsibility for their false and damaging statement." He said the clock was reset when the article appeared in print. Robertson -- designed in the article as a stock picker "who rose to greatness, only to be foiled by his own overcontrolling management style and hot temper" -- seeks \$500 million in compensatory damages and \$500 million in punitive damages. Abrams told AP, "This will be the first case in which the courts address the impact of a publication appearing on the Net rather than on paper."

Apple Readies High-Speed Macs

After killing off its clones and fighting a losing battle to maintain market share, Apple Computer Inc. plans to announce its fastest desktop line to date. Trade journal InfoWorld says the new systems -- based on the Power PC 750 G3 processor -- will be announced in two weeks. InfoWorld notes the announcement will mark the first G3-based Macintosh systems to hit the market since Apple acquired Power Computing, which was prevented from shipping its even faster 275MHz G3-based systems until its Mac OS 8 licensing agreement was resolved.

Apple sources told InfoWorld the three computers will be branded as Apple Power Macintosh G3 systems and feature 32MB of RAM and 24-speed CD-ROMs. The lower-end 233MHz G3 Desktop will have a 4GB hard drive; the 266MHz will have 4GB of disk capacity plus an internal Zip drive, and the 266MHz G3 Minitor will include a 6GB hard drive, an internal Zip drive and audio/visual features.

The machines will retail for \$2,050, \$2,500 and \$3,000 respectively, said sources close to Apple. Apple officials were unable to comment on unannounced products. One analyst told InfoWorld that Apple needs to make significant price cuts to remain competitive and to dispel fears that prices would remain high after Apple killed off its competitive clone market. "They're trying to use this to dispel the rumors and show that by getting rid of the clone-makers they're still going to be offering units at aggressive prices," observed Rob Enderle, a senior analyst at Giga Information Group in Santa Clara, California.

New Modem Seeks Doubled Net Rate

A proprietary technology said to double the speed of current analog Internet links by using two standard phone lines at once is being unveiled by Diamond Multimedia Systems. Reporting from Palo Alto, California, writer Samuel Perry of the Reuter News Service says the capability, dubbed "Shotgun" by Diamond, "provides speeds up to the 112 kilobits per second (Kbps) speeds - double the 56 Kbps speeds of the fastest analog modems that have only begun to be widely available this year." Perry notes such speeds for residential Internet connection is previously have been available only through costly and hard-to-obtain Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) lines or through very limited cable modem deployments. The new technology, built into Diamond software to run on its own existing SupraExpress 56K modems, will be on view at this month's Comdex trade show in Las Vegas, Nevada, but not in products until early next year. While Diamond isn't talking pricing yet, industry executives told Perry they expect the capability to be sold in modems for under \$200 and in upgrade kits for significantly less than that for SupraExpress 56K owners.

"One of the key features of the technology," says Perry, "is that it only uses the second telephone line during peak usage, and it allows incoming and outgoing telephone calls on the second line while maintaining the first line connection." Diamond quotes figures from International Data Corp. as showing that one in four of the 100 million U.S. households already have multiple telephone lines, a figure due to reach 30 million in three years. The company uses Rockwell International's K56flex 56Kbps modem technology and developed the Shotgun technology in partnership with Ascend Communications, which, Reuters notes, lines them up against 3Com's rival x2 56Kbps technology pioneered by US Robotics.

Seagate Debuts 47GB Hard Drive

Seagate Technology Inc. reports that it is ready to market the world's highest capacity disk drive. The Scotts Valley, California, company notes that the Elite 47 can store over 47GB of information -- the equivalent of a stack of typewritten memos reaching more than twice the height of the Empire State Building. The Elite 47 reads and writes at speeds of up to 184M bits per second. The 5,400-rpm drive utilizes UltraSCSI interface technology. Applications include broadcast-quality online digital video storage.

"With over twice the capacity of any other disk drive available today, the Elite 47 should become a drive-of-choice for high-end configurations in systems which have to manipulate and maintain enormous databases," says John Monroe, vice president and chief analyst of Dataquest, a computer industry market research firm based in San Jose, California. Volume production of the Elite 47 is scheduled to begin in early 1998. Evaluation models are scheduled to ship this month at \$2,995 each.

Hitachi Unveils Fast CD-ROM Drive

Hitachi America Ltd. says it has developed the world's fastest PC CD-ROM drive. The company, based in Brisbane, California, notes that its CDR-8430 offers an 80 ms average access time and a 14X to 32X maximum data rate. The unit can read data recorded on all types of CD media, including CD-R and CD-RW discs.

"The worldwide CD-ROM market is projected to exceed shipments of more than 50 million drives in both 1997 and 1998," says Werner Glinka, director of marketing for Hitachi America's storage products group. "Hitachi intends to maintain its position as a leading supplier of these products to the PC industry throughout the transition to next generation DVD technology, and

the CDR-8430 is the product many of our customers want for CD-equipped systems shipping in the first half of 1998." While Hitachi America's principal customers are PC makers, the company says it expects upgrade kit vendors to package the CDR-8430 for resale directly to consumers at competitive retail prices. Visit Hitachi America on the Web at <http://www.hitachi.com>.

Tiny Memory Card Debuts

Siemens Microelectronics Inc. and SanDisk Corp. have developed the world's smallest removable solid state memory card for handheld PCs, cellular phones, digital cameras and other portable products. The companies claim that their MultiMediaCard (MMC), the size of a postage stamp, is extremely rugged, lightweight, power-saving, fast and cost-effective. An integrated serial interface is designed to make the device easy to install.

Siemens and SanDisk say a number of leading cell phone makers -- including Ericsson, Nokia, Motorola, Qualcomm and Siemens -- are already supporting MMC technology as the new industry standard for removable storage media. "SanDisk and Siemens have jointly developed the industry's ideal mass storage device for mobile applications," says Horst Pratsch, a Siemens vice president. "Siemens and SanDisk have met with leading manufacturers of mobile phones, pagers, mobile computing and other mobile electronic products who are enthusiastically endorsing the MultiMediaCard for its ease of integration and additional functionality."

A 2MB ROM version of the MMC is available immediately; samples of an 8MB ROM version are set to ship in January. A flash memory version will be sampling in January in 2MB and 4MB versions. Volume quantity prices will range from \$4.50 for the 2MB ROM version to \$45 for the 10MB flash memory version. Additional information is available on the Web at <http://www.smi.siemens.com>.

'Money' to 'Excel' Utility Debuts

Microsoft Corp. has introduced "Money Link to Excel," a new utility that connects its "Microsoft Money 98" and "Money 98 Financial Suite" personal finance programs to "Excel" spreadsheets. "With this utility, Microsoft is helping users who want in-depth personal finance management, but who would also like to download that data seamlessly into an 'Excel 97' spreadsheet for further analysis," says Lewis Levin, vice president of Microsoft's desktop finance division. "Through the 'Money Link to Excel,' 'Money 98' now provides extensive capacities for financial management and planning to the millions of users of the leading spreadsheet program." The utility can be downloaded from Microsoft's Money Web site at <http://www.microsoft.com/money/>. For PC users who want to try "Money Link to Excel" but don't have a copy of "Money 98," Microsoft is offering a free 90-day trial version of "Money 98 Financial Suite" at <http://www.microsoft.com/money/>.

IBM Unveils New Home PCs

A new \$999 personal computer is being unveiled today by IBM in its bid to catch up in the sub-\$1,000 category, where rivals like Compaq Computer Corp. recently have gained significant market share. The Wall Street Journal reports this morning sub-\$1,000 models accounted for 27 percent of all PCs sold through retail stores in September, noting IBM recently conceded that executives at its Aptiva home-computer unit misread the demand for such low-end units.

By not having a model in that segment, the company lost significant market share, the Journal says, and IBM has since announced a major restructuring of that business. "For \$999, consumers buying an Aptiva E16 won't get a monitor," the Journal says, "but the new model, assembled for IBM by Acer Group of Taiwan, comes with a 166mhz processor and compares well, in terms of other features, with other low-priced computers."

'C From CompuServe' Demos Set

CompuServe Corp. will demonstrate highlights of its "C from CompuServe" Internet-based product at the Comdex/Fall trade show, which begins Nov. 17 in Las Vegas. "'C from CompuServe' will make the best of our award-winning CSi proprietary online service available for the first time directly to Internet users, no matter which Internet service provider or popular browser they use," says Sam Uretsky, vice president of business management for the online service. The new product will include more than 500 CSi Forums and research databases from high-end providers, plus links to thousands of topically related external Web sites. "At launch, 'C from CompuServe' will be one of the largest, most comprehensive destinations on the Internet," says Uretsky.

The new product will be aimed at business, professional, technical and other sophisticated consumers. "The largest unmet need of this segment is for community and communication," says Uretsky. "That's why 'C from CompuServe' is organized by topical communities featured on our renowned interactive Forums and will offer one of the most robust suites of communication tools online." "C from CompuServe" will give Internet users the options to access the "C" Forums on a read-only basis (no charge); conduct database research or electronic commerce (per-use fees); or become full members (monthly flat-rate fee). Separate memberships will be available for an enhanced communications package and a value-added package for computing professionals.

CompuServe recently announced contracts with 58 independent business partners to operate 425 Forums for "C from CompuServe," and additional contracts with prominent electronic commerce "anchors" that include AutoSite, BarnesandNoble.com, Corporate Agents, E*TRADE, NetSales and SABRE. The new product is scheduled to debut in the U.S. and Canada by year-end 1997. The "C from CompuServe" demonstrations will take place at the CompuServe booth at (#II453).

PC Makers Turn to DVD

Digital versatile disk (DVD) -- the well-publicized successor to VHS tapes, CDs and CD-ROMs -- will struggle in the video and music industries but be a major success for the PC industry, finds a new report from Forrester Research. The report claims that PC manufacturers will rapidly embrace DVD, resulting in an installed base of 53 million DVD-equipped PCs by 2002. But the next five years will prove less favorable for the video and music industries' DVD efforts. In 2002, notes the report, only 5.2 percent of U.S. households will own a DVD-video player, while only 2 percent will have a DVD-audio player. As a result, Forrester believes that the PC will be transformed into a more viable consumer entertainment device.

"DVD-ROM is the logical next step," says Mark E. Hardie, a senior analyst with the Cambridge, Massachusetts, market research firm and the report's author. "Game, edutainment and reference titles will benefit from DVD's expanded audio and video capabilities, while immense storage capacity will reduce today's cumbersome 4-disk titles to one DVD."

Hardie also notes that DVD drives can play existing CD-ROMs, so there's little reason for PC makers not to support the technology. "As DVD-ROM drives continue to drop in price, they'll rapidly replace existing CD-ROM drives in new PCs." The study concludes that DVD's entertainment capabilities will be inextricably linked to computers for the next two to four years. "As business travelers enjoy full-length movies on their laptops and college students cue up DVD concert videos during study breaks, consumers will increasingly accept the PC as a viable and unique entertainment alternative," says Hardie.

Microsoft Offers Explorer Previews

Microsoft Corp. has released Preview 1 of Internet Explorer 4.0 for the Unix-based Sun Solaris operating system and Preview 2 for Windows 3.1. These releases join the existing preview version for Macintosh computers and the final version of Internet Explorer 4.0 for Windows 95 and Windows NT. "Internet Explorer 4.0 for Unix has been a long time coming for Microsoft and our customers," says Yusuf Mehdi, director of marketing for Microsoft's applications and Internet client group.

"We're very excited to achieve the first milestone by shipping Preview 1 today. With Internet Explorer 4.0 now available in preview or final form on Macintosh, Windows 3.1, Windows 95, Windows NT 4.0 and, today, UNIX, we round out one of the important pieces of what customers ask for in true platform support." Microsoft says the preview versions are designed to give corporate technical evaluators, developers and enthusiasts the opportunity to experience Internet Explorer 4.0 technology, provide feedback to Microsoft and become familiar with the product early in the development process. All preview and final versions of Internet Explorer 4.0 are available free of charge from Microsoft's Web site at <http://www.microsoft.com/ie/ie40/>.

Nimantics to debut 150MHz mini-notebook

Nimantics Inc. is poised to grab the mini-notebook speed title. The Irvine, Calif., company will introduce at Comdex the Persona T-150, which contains a 150MHz Pentium Processor with MMX Technology from Intel Corp. The machine, to be priced between \$2,399 and \$2,799, also features an 8.4-inch thin-film transistor display and 16MB of RAM.

The Persona T-150, which measures 9.2-inches wide and 6.8-inches deep, weighs in at 2.2 pounds with one battery installed. The mini-notebook can accommodate either one or two lithium-ion batteries from Sony Corp. The batteries, which are used in Sony camcorders, are available at retail in two sizes, priced between \$99 to \$199. The Persona T-150 is slated to ship by December 1, company officials said. Nimantics can be reached at www.nimantics.com.

GTE Internet unit to intro nationwide 56K service

GTE Internetworking, the Internet division of GTE Corp., is expected to announce Friday the launch of nationwide 56K-bps dial-up Internet services. The Cambridge, Mass., company, which includes the Internet backbone network and services operated by the former BBN Corp., will provide 56K-bps service as an enhancement to its DiaLinux Internet dial-up services, company officials said.

The services, which use the K56flex modem technology developed by Lucent Technologies, will be available from all of GTE Internetworking's dial-up points of presence (POPs), according to the company. The DiaLinux services

are intended for access to corporate intranets and the Internet, and GTE Internetworking will shortly announce it has added 150 new POPs to its dial-up network, bringing total POPs to 350, officials said. The company also will expand the service globally to cover more than 100 countries by early next year.

Microsoft begins Corporate anti-piracy campaign

Stepping up its efforts to stanch the spread of illegal software in the workplace, Microsoft Corp. today announced the formation of a new anti-piracy campaign called Open Drive. The goal of the campaign is to "make managers aware of the potential consequences of even inadvertent software piracy and encourage them to take steps to ensure that their companies are in full compliance with software license agreements and U.S. copyright law," said Sam Jadallah, vice president of the organization customer unit at Microsoft.

Open Drive is the company's first anti-piracy campaign directed at medium-size to large companies, officials said. Citing statistics from the Business Software Alliance that one out of every four programs used by business is pirated, Microsoft officials said that translated into \$11.2 billion in lost sales worldwide in 1996, with lost sales in North America alone exceeding \$2.8 billion.

To drive home the point of Open Drive, the Redmond, Wash., company is encouraging companies to participate in its Open License program as a way of ensuring that they are "staying legal." The program allows software to be copied onto multiple machines and includes upgrade benefits as well, officials said. Information about Microsoft's Open License program is available online at www.microsoft.com/select/. Microsoft's anti-piracy hot line is at 800-RU-LEGIT.

Microsoft's Exchange upgrade Set to Go

At a Comdex event later this month, presided over by Chairman and CEO Bill Gates, Microsoft Corp. will announce the availability of an upgrade to its Exchange messaging and groupware server software. Exchange 5.5, previously code-named Osmium, includes an unlimited message store and backup performance enhancements. The current message store is limited to 16GB. The Exchange upgrade will ship with a minor Outlook client upgrade. Dubbed Outlook 8.03, it will take advantage of Exchange 5.5's Deleted Item Recovery feature and enhancements to the Exchange Scripting Agent, as well as allow offline users to receive only the changes to address-book entries.

The next major upgrade of Outlook, to be shipped in the first quarter of 1998 and as yet unnamed, will include usability and performance improvements, easier setup and configuration, and support for additional Internet protocols, including SMTP/Post Office Protocol 3, IMAP4 (Internet Messaging Access Protocol 4) and LDAP (Lightweight Directory Access Protocol), according to officials with the Redmond, Wash., company. The prerelease version is expected later this month.

The Exchange 5.5 server supports IMAP4 and LDAP as well as X.509 digital certificates. It also supports the Cluster Server technology of Windows NT Server Enterprise Edition. In addition, the Exchange Scripting Agent has been augmented to enable third parties to add event-triggered business logic to Exchange Server folders. At the Comdex trade show in Las Vegas, Gates is expected to host a question-and-answer session regarding Microsoft's personal and business systems group, which comprises new products such as Windows 98, Hydra, Exchange Server and Site Server.

Microsoft can be reached at www.microsoft.com.

McAfee readies new anti-virus releases for Exchange

Mcafee Associates Inc. plans to announce its latest anti-virus releases for Microsoft Corp.'s Exchange 5.5 at Comdex later this month. The Santa Clara, Calif., company is currently beta testing GroupShield and GroupScan, which are designed for use on the Microsoft messaging platform. GroupShield scans all traffic that enters the Exchange server and automatically cleans, deletes or sends infected messages to a quarantine folder for analysis and origin tracing. Alerts can be sent in any combination to the administrator, recipient and sender of the virus. Optional SNMP alerting is available to automatically generate trouble tickets within help desk applications.

Also available in GroupShield are full management capabilities from a Windows NT server or workstation, where an administrator can deploy the products in multiple servers, configure the products after they are deployed, and monitor and schedule virus scans. GroupShield scans messages from the Internet, mailboxes and public folders. The version for Microsoft Exchange will sell for \$34 per user. A price has not yet been set for GroupScan.

GroupScan follows encrypted messages and attachments to the client and scans them for viruses before they are stored in a client's hard drive. It also enables a user to prevent storage of a de-encrypted file until after the file has been scanned. GroupShield is scheduled to ship Nov. 17; GroupScan is slated for release in mid-December. Both products also support Exchange 4.0 and 5.0. McAfee can be reached at www.mcafee.com.

Lotus Layoffs

Lotus Development Corp. is cutting jobs at its Mountain View, Calif., office as part of a re-evaluation of its Approach database line. The company declined to give specifics, except to say that a "small percentage of the hundreds of people on the SmartSuite team" would be let go beginning this week. Others will be incorporated into development operations at the company's headquarters in Cambridge, Mass. "It's a reflection of the business reality," said company spokesman Paul LaBelle. "We, like all companies, are constantly re-evaluating how our development resources are allocated."

Approach, aimed at users who are not computer experts, was launched in 1992. Lotus said the product, part of the SmartSuite software package, now has 4 million users. LaBelle said the company will still produce the software, with the next Approach release scheduled for early next year. The company has a small percentage of the database applications market, which it is fighting to increase in the face of competition from Microsoft Corp., Corel Corp. and others.

Is Lotus Development Corp. planning to get out of the database business? Company officials told employees Wednesday they plan to close the Mountain View, Calif., division responsible for developing the Approach product line. Twenty-one employees were handed pink slips and about a dozen more will get them in March, according to knowledgeable sources. The sources added that a few employees will be incorporated into development operations at the company's headquarters in Cambridge, Mass., as Lotus re-evaluates what to do with the product line.

Company spokesman Paul LaBelle declined to give any specifics, except to

say that a "small percentage of the hundreds of people on the SmartSuite team" would be laid off. LaBelle said the company will still produce the software, with the next Approach release scheduled for early next year. "It's a reflection of the business reality," he said, referring to the cuts. "We, like all companies, are constantly re-evaluating how our development resources are allocated."

The cuts to the Approach division come as Lotus concentrates on a new Java-based software package aimed directly at Microsoft's desktop market. On Monday, Lotus introduced a new package of applications called eSuite. The product, formerly code-named Kona, features E-mail, word processing, and spreadsheets. Approach, aimed at users who are not computer experts, was launched in 1992. Lotus said the product, part of the SmartSuite software package, now has 4 million users.

The company owns a small percentage of the database applications market, which it is fighting to increase in the face of competition from Microsoft Corp. and Corel Corp., among others. LaBelle said Lotus, a subsidiary of IBM Corp., has grown to 8,000 employees from 5,500 two years ago. It has about 3,000 developers worldwide.

Lexmark to debut New Laser Printers

Lexmark International Inc. will expand its Optra S series of laser printers next week with four monochrome models geared toward cost-conscious users. The new Lexmark Optra S 1620 and Optra S 2420, with output speeds of 16 and 24 pages per minute, are priced at \$999 and \$1,899, respectively. Network-ready versions of the printers, the Optra S 1620N and Optra S 2420N, include 10/100BaseTX Ethernet adapters and cost \$1,299 and \$2,249, respectively.

All four printers are available now. Lexmark will also announce next week a version of its MarkVision printer management software that supports Unix. MarkVision for Unix Intranet Servers and MarkVision for Unix Networks include two features that are meant to make life easier for a company's support staff.

The software comes with video help files that address common problems such as clearing paper jams and changing toner cartridges. It also automatically sends E-mail or pages to support staff when toner is low or a printer is jammed. These features soon will be added to the Windows version of MarkVision, company officials said. MarkVision for Unix Intranet Servers and MarkVision for Unix Networks will be available next week for an estimated street price of \$239. Windows and OS/2 versions of MarkVision are bundled for free with Lexmark's laser printers. Lexmark, of Lexington, Ky., can be reached at www.lexmark.com

Hydra, Win 98 betas RSN

Multiuser OS due at Comdex; Public Beta of Windows 98 to follow...

Using Comdex for the launch, Microsoft Corp. will preview beta versions of its two different but equally powerful operating systems. At the Las Vegas trade show in two weeks, Microsoft will announce a limited public beta of Hydra, the code name for the multiuser version of Windows NT. Before month's end, Microsoft will also ship the first public beta of Windows 98, sources said. The two operating systems are polar opposites in their functionality. Hydra enables heavyweight applications to be run on thin clients--with the processing occurring on NT-based servers or on the client. Windows 98, on the other hand, is a full-fledged desktop operating

system that integrates Internet access with traditional operating system functions.

For its part, Hydra lets users run 32-bit applications remotely from a server. As a result, it will offer firms a lower cost of operation, as the terminals on which it runs are less expensive and administration is less demanding than traditional client/server architectures. The operating system will run on Windows Terminals as well as traditional, less powerful desktops. Microsoft, with a host of hardware vendors, will demonstrate the Hydra beta at Comdex. Network Computing Devices Inc., Boundless Technologies Inc., Wyse Technology Inc. and Tektronix Inc. will build Windows-based terminals; Digital Equipment Corp., Hewlett-Packard Co., IBM and Intergraph Corp. will support Hydra on the server, sources said. NCR Corp., Data General Corp. and Amdahl Inc. may also support Hydra on their server hardware, they said.

While formal pricing for the operating system has not been set, one option being considered is to price the Hydra server at \$2,000, Windows clients at \$75 per seat and non-Windows clients at \$150 per seat, sources said. Microsoft officials declined to comment. Microsoft may also use Comdex to announce its plans to release the public beta of Windows 98. But Microsoft officials said it's unlikely the code will ship until the week after the show.

The public beta is actually the third beta version of Windows 98, which is being targeted at consumers; Microsoft began testing the code privately three months ago. After initial rocky reports, some testers report the code is shaping up for the public unveiling. "They have fixed a lot of problems with stability and added the support for nearly all of the features," said one beta tester. "It is looking very solid." One of the biggest features slated for the new Windows 98 beta is migration support for Windows 3.1 users. Microsoft delayed the release of the public beta and the final release of Windows 98 to get support for Windows 3.1 into the product. The operating system is now due in the second quarter.

Another key feature of Windows 98, which is due in the second quarter of 1998, is Internet Explorer 4.0. The browser has come under the scrutiny of the U.S. Department of Justice, which has charged Microsoft with breaching its 1995 consent decree by bundling IE 4.0 with Windows 95. The consent decree prohibits the company from tying one product to another in an effort to stifle competition. Although Windows 98 currently is not the focal point of the DOJ case, its future could be impacted by the outcome. Next week, Microsoft will formally reply to the DOJ's charges.

Hydra, multi-user version of NT

- OEMs include Wyse, NCD, Boundless
- Will support both ICA and t.share remote protocols
- Limited beta due at Comdex

Windows 98

- Includes Windows 3.1 upgrade tools
- Beta 3 due at or slightly after Comdex
- New OS due Q2 1998

Sun Backs Java "benchmarks"

Sun Microsystems Inc. doesn't argue that it tweaked its compilers to achieve better performance on the CaffeineMark Java benchmark test. Indeed,

it said it has an obligation to do so. Our job is to provide the best performance on the benchmarks that are available and we did that," said Brian Croll, director of product marketing for Solaris at Sun's SunSoft division in Mountain View, Calif. Croll was responding to charges made yesterday by Pendragon Software Corp., the Libertyville, Ill., developer of the CaffeineMark benchmark test.

Pendragon President Ivan Phillips said Sun misrepresented test results by building its compilers to specifically recognize Pendragon's Logic test module, thus producing an abnormally high score. After the high scores became known in late October, Sun issued press releases that claimed Solaris 2.6 achieved 50 percent better Java performance than Windows NT systems. "We have no reason to believe this was a master plan from Sun management, but the compiler was tweaked to look for our benchmark and that doesn't happen accidentally," Phillips said. He added that the compiler gave a very high overall CaffeineMark score that was not representative of good Java performance in general.

"If [the test results] are not representative of real world Java applications, then that's a problem with the benchmark," Croll said. Sun suspects Pendragon was put up to publicizing the modified compiler by Microsoft Corp., which may have "whined" to Pendragon that Sun beat it on the benchmark, Croll said. In the same release that alleges misrepresentation of the test results, Pendragon said the fastest Java performance is on a Windows NT system running 300MHz Pentium II processors.

Gateway 2000 "offers" Internet to customers

Aiming to build a better bridge to its customers, computer maker Gateway 2000 Inc. announced on Wednesday its plan to offer Internet service to its users. "The Internet is an integral part of the computing experience with our customers," said Mike Flanary, senior manager at Gateway 2000. "We want to make it easier to use." The service will be shipped on all Gateway computers starting next Monday and be offered to existing users beginning in early 1998. The North Sioux City, S.D., company will charge \$12.95 for the first 30 hours of Internet use each month, and \$2.95 for each additional hour. "Over 80 percent of our customers are online 20 hours or more a month, so we think this is the best package," said Flanary.

Customer satisfaction is only part of the equation, say some analysts. "They can't be making much money at \$12.95," said Harry Fenik, an industry analyst with Internet watcher Zona Research Inc., "but it gives them a great way to attach themselves to their customers." With almost daily access to the customer, Gateway will be able to improve support, increase repeat sales, and lower administrative costs. "From day one, I would expect adds for upgrades and second PCs to pop up on the home page," said Fenik. The actual service will be provided by another, undisclosed provider. It will be a 100-percent digital network using U.S. Robotics' x2 56Kbps technology. Customers will be able to access the service nationwide.

FrontPage 98 a balance of power, ease of use

Web authoring tool has editing & management finesse

Microsoft Corp.'s FrontPage 98 makes the precarious tightrope walk between power and ease of use look like a stroll in the park. The shipping version of the software, which will be available to customers later this month for \$149 (\$55 to upgrade) was tested. Most notable among the changes in this version, and earning it an Analyst's Choice award, are a drag-and-drop Web site view that allowed us to rearrange pages in our test sites with ease,

global page styles that allowed us to apply and enforce visual consistency with a minimum of fuss, and automatically generated navigation bars.

FrontPage, which runs on Windows 95 or Windows NT (but is not available on the Mac), strikes a workable compromise between the two poles of Web page editing tools: HTML tag editors such as SoftQuad Inc.'s HotMetal Pro and visual editors such as NetObjects Inc.'s Fusion. FrontPage's rich selection of visual formatting and design tools performed ably in most of our text- and image-editing tests while still allowing us to hand-edit HTML when required.

Taking a cue from Fusion, FrontPage now provides about 50 (not very corporate) site styles, called Themes, that globally set a variety of text and page formatting options. Cascading Style Sheets, the seemingly natural choice for enforcing formatting consistency, are not used by FrontPage Themes and are poorly supported in general.

FrontPage's server-side extensions are now provided in both the fast native Microsoft Web server format and the sluggish but universal Common Gateway Interface format. Netscape Communications Corp.'s Netscape Server API is not supported. Table, frame and image editing are all much improved in the FrontPage page editor. A table boundary pencil makes table editing simple, and frames can now be modified directly in the editor, rather than having to switch to a separate frame wizard. FrontPage's read-only database publishing is still barely usable, requiring us to type in hard-coded SQL and look up all our table names by hand.

Summary; FrontPage 98

Almost every area of FrontPage has been significantly enhanced, allowing first-time Web authors to get up and running fast while not holding experienced users back. Users who just want to get good-looking Web pages done fast (in contrast to Webmasters or graphic artists) will find FrontPage a suitable tool.

USABILITY	A
CAPABILITY	A
PERFORMANCE	B
INTEROPERABILITY	B
MANAGEABILITY	A

PROS: Improved frame- and image-editing; drag-and-drop site restructuring capabilities; automatically created navigation bars; global Themes enforce design consistency; server-side extensions provided for both Windows and Unix Web servers.

CONS: Provides only token Cascading Style Sheet support; poor database publishing tools; lacks native Netscape Web server extensions. Microsoft Corp., Redmond, Wash. (800) 426-9400; www.microsoft.com/frontpage

A T T E N T I O N-A T T E N T I O N-A T T E N T I O N

LEXMARK OPTRA C
COLOR
LASER PRINTER

For a limited time only; If you wish to have a FREE sample printout sent to you that demonstrates LEXMARK Optra C SUPERIOR QUALITY 600 dpi Laser Color Output, please send a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope [SASE] (business sized envelope please) to:

STReport's LEXMARK Printout Offer
P.O. Box 6672
Jacksonville, Florida 32205-6155

Folks, the LEXMARK Optra C has to be the very best yet in its price range. It is far superior to anything we've seen or used as of yet. It is said that ONE Picture is worth a thousand words. The out put from the Lexmark Optra C is worth ten thousand words! Send for the free sample now. (For a sample that's suitable for framing, see below) Guaranteed. you will be amazed at the superb quality. (Please.. allow at least a two week turn-around).

If you would like a sample printout that's suitable for framing. Yes that's right! Suitable for Framing. Order this package. It'll be on special stock and be of superb quality. We obtained a mint copy of a 1927 COLOR ENGRAVER'S YEAR BOOK. Our Scanner is doing "double duty"! The results will absolutely blow you away. If you want this high quality sample package please include a check or money order in the amount of \$6.95 (Costs only) Please, make checks or money orders payable to; Ralph Mariano. Be sure to include your full return address and telephone number . The sample will be sent to you protected, not folded in a 9x12 envelope. Don't hesitate.. you will not be disappointed. This "stuff" is gorgeous!

A T T E N T I O N-A T T E N T I O N-A T T E N T I O N

EDUPAGE STR Focus Keeping the users informed

Edupage

Contents

Congressional Investigators
Question Microsoft IE Tactics
Mac OS For Intel Machines: What
Might Have Been
Overseas Floridians Get Chance To
Vote Over Internet
RSA Seeks To Establish Internet

Encryption Standard
Growing Chips In Test Tubes
New Tools For Analyzing Complex
Computer Systems
Net Policing In Switzerland
MSN Morphs Again
Edupage: Official Technology
Newsletter For The Year 2000 (tm)
Government Gets Into "Cookies"
Business
Cyberspace Regulation: Do It
Yourself Or Have It Done To You
Publication Date Debate
Meeting On Building Info Tech Work
Force Slated
Domination Of Corporate PC Market
Data Mining Study Forecasts Gold
Rush
Lotus Software For Network
Computers
AOL E-Mail Brownout
Do-It-Yourself CDs
Wiring The Schools Means Big Bucks
Conference On Information Resources
& Higher Education
Microsoft Wants Cable To Provide
High-Speed Internet Access
IBM Offers \$999 PC
Cyber Theft Would Put Even Robin
Hood In Jail
McNealy's War Against Gates
Laptops Seen By Senate As Threat To
Decorum
FTC Gets Refunds For Victims Of Net
Porn Scam

CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS QUESTION MICROSOFT IE TACTICS

A committee investigating software industry competition is looking into Microsoft's Internet Explorer marketing practices: "There are questions over why some PC makers have, so quickly, changed over to Internet Explorer 4.0," says one source close to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. "What was behind it?" A hearing scheduled for Tuesday on overall industry issues likely will zero in on these questions, under the leadership of Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, whose constituents include Novell Inc. and Caldera Inc., both of which have complained about Microsoft business tactics. "Over the past several months, the Judiciary Committee has received numerous complaints from a broad spectrum of entities alleging that Microsoft is engaging in unlawful, predatory practices that go well beyond the scope of fair competition," says Hatch. (Computer Reseller News 1 Nov 97)

MAC OS FOR INTEL MACHINES: WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

Apple is thought to be involved in an effort to develop a version of its Macintosh operating system to run on computers based on Intel processors, but it's not the first time the company worked on such a project. Five years ago Apple and Novell software engineers worked together on a secret

project called "Star Trek" that produced a prototype design in late 1993. However, the project was soon killed off by internal politics after the departure of its two biggest supporters, when Vice President Roger Heinen left to work for Microsoft and Chief Executive Officer John Sculley was forced out of the company. It is not unreasonable to speculate whether Apple would now control most of the PC operating system market if in 1994 it had preempted Microsoft and the introduction of Windows 95. (San Jose Mercury News 31 Oct 97)

OVERSEAS FLORIDIANS GET CHANCE TO VOTE OVER INTERNET

Florida has developed a plan that will allow overseas military and civilian voters to participate in the 1998 elections by casting their ballots via the Internet. (New York Times Cybertimes 1 Nov 97)

RSA SEEKS TO ESTABLISH INTERNET ENCRYPTION STANDARD

RSA Data Security has formally applied to the Internet Engineering Task Force to make its S/MIME encryption technology an Internet standard. Supporting RSA's drive is a group of 12 Japanese vendors that have announced they will form a Japanese consortium to advocate the adoption of S/MIME encryption in that country. RSA's major competitor is Pretty Good Privacy, which has been pushing its own technology with the IETF. "We think that RSA coming out and working within the standards organizations is a good thing," says the director of technology at PGP, who adds that this is where these types of issues should be discussed. (Net Insider 31 Oct 97)

GROWING CHIPS IN TEST TUBES

Yale University researchers are working on an alternative method of producing computer chips -- growing them in test tubes. The idea is to encourage organic molecules into organizing themselves into wires and transistors by zapping them with an electrical current. The result could be superchips with many billions of transistors. (Business Week 3 Nov 97)

NEW TOOLS FOR ANALYZING COMPLEX COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Scientists in New Mexico have developed a prototype virtual reality system that creates a three-dimensional representation of a complex computer program, allowing scientists to visualize and manipulate the software. "It's like being inside a brain," says one of the researchers, who adds that the technology could be used for simulating industrial process control, visualizing enormous databases and recognizing patterns, and improving engineering and software design. "A large proportion of all computer problems is attributable to the initial, informal, subjective phase of conceptualizing how a system should or should not behave," says a scientist at Sandia National Laboratories. (Science News 25 Oct 97)

NET POLICING IN SWITZERLAND

The University of Basel, Switzerland closed down some of its departmental Internet activities after a 31-year-old computer assistant was found to have child pornography on his Web page as well on his personal computer at home (discovered when the police raided his house). The man was dismissed from the university and is charged with transmitting child pornography. If convicted, he will face up to three years in prison and fines up to \$28,000. (AP 31 Oct 97)

MSN MORPHS AGAIN

The Microsoft Network has changed gears again, now positioning itself as an Internet service provider (through MSN Connect) for \$19.95 a month, or as a combination Internet-premium content provider (internally called MSN Club) for \$25 a month. "Microsoft doesn't want to be in the ISP business. But it already is and it's acknowledging that fact," says a media analyst at Arlen Communications. Further restructuring is predicted.
(Broadcasting & Cable 20 Oct 97)

EDUPAGE: OFFICIAL TECHNOLOGY NEWSLETTER FOR THE YEAR 2000 (tm)

The U.S. Patent & Trademark Office has awarded 117 trademarks that include the word "millennium" and more than 1,500 containing "2000." Some examples of the trademark applications: a moving company using the phrase "Moving Into The Millennium," a brewing company (Miller) that wants to be "Official Sponsor Of The Millennium," a magazine (Playboy) that wants to be "Official Magazine Of The Millennium," and a California company that claims exclusive rights to the use of "Class Of 2000" T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and shorts. A government trademark administrator says: "If in fact the mark serves a trademark function and we think is able to distinguish those goods from other goods, then we will register it." (AP 31 Oct 97)

GOVERNMENT GETS INTO "COOKIES" BUSINESS

The nonprofit organization OMB Watch says that three federal agencies (Veterans Affairs, FEMA, and NSF) have been collecting information about online visitors to their sites by setting "cookies" to automatically retrieve personal data from a user's hard drive without letting the user know they were doing so. After the release of the draft report by OMB Watch, all three agencies ceased setting cookies. (Government Technology Oct 97)

CYBERSPACE REGULATION: DO IT YOURSELF OR HAVE IT DONE TO YOU

In a speech to advertisers, Ira Magaziner, the Clinton administration's advisor on Internet issues, said: "The tremendous economic benefits of the Internet will not work if we don't get efficient industry self-regulation on issues like privacy and content, especially in the children's area. If you fail, we will have to go the legislative route. That gets caught up in the political process and will be less rational and efficient." (New York Times
Cybertimes 4 Nov 97)

PUBLICATION DATE DEBATE

The viability of a libel lawsuit filed in New York state court hinges on whether the court decides that an official publication date is the date an article appears in any form, including electronic, or whether it's the date on the print version. Business Week has asked a trial judge to dismiss a \$1 billion lawsuit brought by stock picker Julian H. Robertson, Jr. because the suit was filed a day after the one-year statute of limitations ran out, according to the magazine. Business Week contends that the online version of the article, which appeared March 21, 1996, constitutes the article's "publication" date, rather than the print version, which was published the following day. Robertson's suit was filed on March 24, 1997, which, once a weekend is counted, is exactly a year and a day after

the electronic publication of the March 21, 1996 article. "This will be the first case in which the courts address the impact of a publication appearing on the Net rather than on paper," says the First Amendment lawyer representing Business Week. (AP 3 Nov 97)

MEETING ON BUILDING INFO TECH WORK FORCE SLATED

In response to dire forecasts of labor shortages in the information technology industry, government and industry leaders have scheduled a meeting in January to "galvanize a swift, effective response." A Dept. of Commerce report entitled "America's New Deficit: The Shortage of Information Technology Workers" warns that there would be an annual shortfall of 70,000 workers in the computer science, engineering and programming fields between the years 1994 and 2005. "Think about running out of iron ore in the midst of the industrial revolution and the impact on the world that would have had," says the president of the Information Technology Association of America, a chief sponsor of the planned meeting. "In the knowledge revolution, skilled people are our basic raw material." (Tampa Tribune 3 Nov 97)

DOMINATION OF CORPORATE PC MARKET

A computer industry analysis prepared by Credit Suisse First Boston says that by the end of 2001, four Computer manufacturers (Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Compaq, and Dell) will control half the total PC market and that small competitors may be left unable to penetrate the corporate market. The reason given for this conclusion is that only these large manufacturers will be able to provide the network management and equipment, plus the service and support required by corporate customers. (New York Times Cybertimes 3 Nov 97)

DATA MINING STUDY FORECASTS GOLD RUSH

A Meta Group study entitled "Data Mining: Trends, Technology and Implementation Imperatives" predicts that total revenues for this market will hit \$8.4 billion in the next two years, a 150% increase over the \$3.3 billion generated last year. The driving factor behind the trend is the move toward customer-centric marketing, which requires specialized data mining applications to better understand consumers' buying patterns and demographic profiles. The study is based on responses from about 120 companies. (Internet Week 4 Nov 97)

LOTUS SOFTWARE FOR NETWORK COMPUTERS

IBM's Lotus division is introducing Java-coded software to run on diskless "network computers" that allow users to download the applications software (word processing, spreadsheets, etc.) from a "server" computer. The Lotus software will be made available not only to IBM customers but also to customers of Sun, Oracle, Novell, Netscape, and AOL. (USA Today 3 Nov 97)

AOL E-MAIL BROWNOUT

America Online has had e-mail delivery problems twice in the past week, preventing a significant number of its total of 9 million subscribers from sending or receiving messages. (AP 3 Nov 97)

DO-IT-YOURSELF CDs

Liquid Audio's MusicPlayer software enables users to sample tunes online,

and pay with a credit card to download singles or entire albums to their hard drive or writable CD-ROM peripheral. Writable CD drives now run around \$200 to \$400 and the cost of a blank compact disk is about \$2. The Liquid Audio software was developed with an eye toward pleasing the music industry -- it incorporates copyright and purchaser information that's digitally watermarked into the file, preventing users from burning more than one CD. "Ultimately, this will be the model that will be the distribution method," says a multimedia analyst with Giga Information Group. "The question is how fast it will fly." (TechWeb 4 Nov 97) Meanwhile, new software from Adaptec Inc. can convert virtually any recorded audio to CD format. Easy CD Creator works with long-playing records, cassettes or eight-track tapes, and does a reasonable job of cleaning up the pops and hisses that occur on some older recording media. It can't, however, cure skips in records or the underlying hiss inherent in audiotapes. (Investor's Business Daily 4 Nov 97)

WIRING THE SCHOOLS MEANS BIG BUCKS

The head of the new company that will oversee wiring U.S. schools for Internet access will draw a salary of more than \$200,000 - significantly higher than the executives of other quasi-governmental agencies, such as the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the U.S. Postal Service or the Public Broadcasting Service. The new Schools and Libraries Corporation, mandated by the Federal Communications Commission, is headed up by a former consultant to the FCC. (Telecommunications Policy Review 26 Oct 97)

CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION RESOURCES & HIGHER EDUCATION

Don't miss the 21st Annual CAUSE Conference on Information Resources in Higher Education, December 2-5, 1997. Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel, Lake Buena Vista, Florida. CAUSE and Educom are exploring the possibility of a merger. See: <http://www.cause.org/conference/c97/c97.html>.

MICROSOFT WANTS CABLE TO PROVIDE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESS

Microsoft appears ready to invest up to \$1 billion to acquire more than 6% of the cable TV operations of US West, as part of a strategy to make cable the primary delivery mechanism for high-speed Internet. Since US West is a major shareholder in (and management partner with) Time Warner, Microsoft would also have a strong position in the Time Warner cable empire. (New York Times 5 Nov 97)

IBM OFFERS \$999 PC

Recognizing that it had underestimated the demand for PCs in the sub-\$1,000 category, IBM will now try to compete with rivals such as Compaq by selling a \$999 Aptiva E16 assembled for IBM by Acer in Taiwan. The system will come without a monitor but will have a 166 mhz processor and features comparable to other low-priced PCs. (Wall Street Journal 6 Nov 97)

CYBER THEFT WOULD PUT EVEN ROBIN HOOD IN JAIL

Under a bill introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R., VA), using the Net to misappropriate copyrighted works would become a federal offense, regardless of whether the thief sought personal profit. The inspiration for the legislation was a Massachusetts court case in which a student posted commercial software on a computer bulletin board making it available free to others. (AP 6 Nov 97)

MCNEALY'S WAR AGAINST GATES

Telling Java supporters to "flood his mailbox" by sending Microsoft leader Bill Gates messages saying "that you want 100% pure Java," Sun chief executive Scott McNealy complained: "Microsoft is no longer a distributor of Java platforms. People are puzzled, they have the impression there are two versions of Java. This isn't true, there is only one: pure Java. If you put three drops of poison into a 100% pure Java, you get Windows. If you put a few drops of Java into Windows, you still have Windows." Microsoft executive Tod Nielsen response to McNealy's charges: "Sun's board should wash his mouth out with soap. If my five-year-old talked the same way, she'd be blowing bubbles." (New York Times Cybertimes 6 Nov 97)

LAPTOPS SEEN BY SENATE AS THREAT TO DECORUM

The Senate Rules Committee has rejected a request by Mike Enzi (R., Wyoming) to be allowed to use a laptop on the floor of the Senate. Enzi had earlier said: "The laptop was a necessary tool for me, since you do not have any staff in Wyoming. I found I could take notes and write speeches, and during debate I could write down the issues that I need to respond to. I could look up documents that support that and be sure I had the facts right." But a number of other Senators spoke against the idea, including Wendell Ford (D., Kentucky): "I don't want to appear to be standing in the way of progress and technology. This committee will continue to wrestle with the trade-offs of allowing members to take advantage of new technologies while preserving the history and decorum of the Senate chamber." (News.Com 5 Nov 97)=20

FTC GETS REFUNDS FOR VICTIMS OF NET PORN SCAM

The Federal Trade Commission has won \$2.74 million in consumer reimbursements from several firms that offered free software supposedly intended for retrieving erotic pictures -- but which when downloaded to a user's machine was actually used to connect consumers without their knowledge to expensive long-distance phone calls while they continued their viewing of the erotica. The calls were routed via Moldova in eastern Europe to a Canadian site that charged the Moldova rates of up to \$2 a minute. The case came to light when AT&T workers noted a significant increase in the number of international calls to Molodva. (Washington Post 5 Nov 97)

STReport's "Partners in Progress"

Advertising Program

The facts are in... STReport International Magazine reaches more users per week than any other weekly resource available today. Take full advantage of this spectacular reach. Explore the superb possibilities of advertising in STReport! Its very economical and smart business. In addition, STReport offers a strong window of opportunity to your company of reaching potential users on major online services and networks, the Internet, the WEB and more than 200,000 private BBS's worldwide. With a readership of better than 200,000 per week, this is truly an exceptional opportunity to maximize your company's recognition factor globally.

(STReport is pronounced: "ES TEE Report")

STR Publishing's Economical "Partners in Progress" Plans!

"Partners in Progress" Program.. Call Today!

STR Publishing, Inc. (STR, STReport, CPU Report);

- maintains a commitment to utilizing the power of the Internet and Web to keep computer users, worldwide, both private and commercial, informed of new trends in equipment, upgrade reports and future planning.
- offers highly informative Hardware and Software Reviews, Press Releases, hands-on stories, user experiences and show reports.
- presents the NEWS about new hardware, new software and how-to publications within HOURS of its being made public.
- is dedicated to keeping the users informed of what your company has to offer at incredibly, almost the moment its offered!

Take full advantage of STReport's Exciting "Partners in Progress" Programs!
MAXIMIZE your Company's Presence Worldwide. TODAY!

Eighth Page - \$50.00	Quarter Page - \$100.00
per issue	per issue
Half Page - \$200.00 per	Full Page - \$400.00 per
issue	issue

Your company's color ad, as described/submitted by you or designed by us, will appear in STReport International Magazine. STReport is published and released weekly on Fridays Evenings. All sizes based on a full color, eight and a half by eleven inch page. Trade-outs and Special Arrangements are available.

Email us at or, for quick action call us at:

VOICE: 904-292-9222 10am/5pm est FAX: 904-268-2237 24hrs

Or, write us at:

STR Publishing, Inc.
P.O. Box 6672
Jacksonville, Florida 32205

15% Holiday Discount for Month of October.

Apple/Mac Section
Randy Noak, Editor

Mac Mania

by Randy Noak

Have you seen the new Macintosh television ads? They are definitely eye-catching and show (again) that Macs and their users are different than the "other" platform. The ads are a good start in the right direction and I hope that Apple will continue to advertise on television. Television ads will do two things. One, they will reassure potential users that the Mac is, indeed, a viable choice for a computing platform and, two, will provide current users with the reassurance that they did, indeed, make the correct choice of platform. This reassurance is necessary because the popular press, who, judging by some of the articles that have been written about Apple lately, doesn't seem to have the least clue about what Apple is all about. Don't get me wrong, I have a Pentium sitting here in my office and use Wintel machines at work, but they just don't give me the same "computing experience" as does my Mac. I bet most dual-platform Mac/Windows users feel the same way.

On Another Topic Entirely...

I've been doing a lot of thinking lately about things Microsoft. The conclusion? In my opinion, it's only a matter time before the Justice Department forces Microsoft to splinter into several pieces. With all the allegations of allegedly unfair business practices, Reno and Company will be forced to do something. Will this be good for the computing community? I think it will. When AT&T was broken up, it ended up being a good thing for telephone users, the "Baby Bells" and AT&T. Perhaps a Microsoft breakup would also have some benefits for consumers? My prediction? The DOJ and Microsoft will "come to an agreement" with Microsoft agreeing to spin off a division or two. I bet that Microsoft's lawyers and accountants have a contingency plan ready to go.

Here's some news...

MacTech Launches Its New Web Site

WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA -- October 29, 1997 -- Xplain Corporation, publisher of MacTech(r) Magazine is very excited to announce the launching of its new 3000+ page web site at < The MacTech web site is dedicated to the Macintosh programmer and developer. With access to a world of reference material it's a great starting place for both the beginner and voluminous enough for the experienced developer.

The new web site gives you exclusive access to the entire library of MacTech articles featured in the magazine from 1984 through May 1997. That's 1600 articles in 139 issues. In addition, the site has the entire history of develop, Apple's award winning technical journal (that's 29 issues from 1990 - 1997). Also, the site is the largest known archive of Frameworks (the publication of the late Software Frameworks Association). All in all, there are over 3300 pages of content, with a total of 12,000 files on the new MacTech site.

When you visit the site you can get a "risk free" trial issue to MacTech Magazine. And, if you want to have access to the most current industry news and press releases you can subscribe to MacDev- 1(tm). The site also features MacTech Online, the Programmer's Challenge, Job Postings, access to the MacTech ftp site, and much more. If speed is what you're looking for, this web site has it. There is flatter organization which requires less clicks and smaller-faster graphics for faster loading. This is all made simple with new easy navigation to help you get in and out of where you want to go FAST. Also, searching on the new site is easier than before via the new Phantom search engine courtesy of Maxum. Plus, the web site keeps you up to date and informed featuring all the breaking news in the developer community.

Visit the new MacTech web site at <<http://www.mactech.com>>.

Apple's Announces QuickTime VR Authoring Studio Contest

CUPERTINO, California--Oct. 27, 1997--Apple Computer, Inc. today announced the QuickTime VR Authoring Studio "Experience the Revolution" contest. The contest is designed to inspire QuickTime VR (Virtual Reality) enthusiasts to design unique and creative movies with QuickTime VR Authoring Studio and other QuickTime VR tools. QuickTime VR Authoring Studio is a new professional software application that allows web designers and multimedia authors to quickly and easily create QuickTime VR panoramas and object movies.

"The 'Experience the Revolution' contest is designed not only to help

promote Apple's new QuickTime VR Authoring Studio, but also to expand awareness of QuickTime VR's benefits to the web and multimedia communities," said David Palermo, QuickTime VR product manager, Apple Computer, Inc. "We are eager to see what types of movies participants create. The contest offers an inviting way for content developers to take QuickTime VR movies to new levels and receive recognition for their innovation." "Experience the Revolution" entries will be judged on their creative and artistic merits, as well as their innovative use of QuickTime VR tools. The contest deadline is Jan. 31, 1998 and winners will be notified shortly thereafter.

Winners will be selected in the following categories: Objects -- QuickTime VR object movies. Animation Objects -- QuickTime VR object movies containing animation. Panoramas -- QuickTime VR panoramas with one or more nodes. Multimedia -- QuickTime VR in a multimedia project. Web -- QuickTime VR objects or panoramas on an HTML page. For each category, a panel of judges will select the four best entries, all of which receive a prize according to their rank. In addition, one entry will be selected "Best of Show" overall.

"Experience the Revolution" Prizes

The "Best of Show" winner will be awarded one Twentieth Anniversary Macintosh computer. The innovative, flat-panel design features a total entertainment center including a television tuner; CD player; full computer hardware, including a PowerPC 603 RISC processor; FM radio tuner; Acoustimass sound system by Bose; cable adapter for composite video; and a custom keyboard with detachable trackpad.

Identical first through fourth prizes will be awarded for the winners of each of the five categories.

- ' • First prize -- A Nikon N70 camera with a 35mm to 80mm f/4.5 zoom lens.
- ' • Second prize -- Five rolls of Kodak Ektapress' Multispeed film, plus Kodak processing and PhotoCD conversion.
- ' • Third prize -- A copy of the Apple QuickTime VR Authoring Studio.
- ' • Fourth prize -- A Kiwi panorama head by Kaidan.

The judging panel consists of six participants with extensive background in photography, design, computers and video imaging.

For more detailed information on the "Experience the Revolution" contest and entry forms, see the official contest rules on the World Wide Web at: <http://quicktimevr.apple.com>.

QSoft CD Combines Rhapsody and Yellow Box Applications

State College, PA USA -- Showing its continued commitment to Apple's next generation operating system, code named Rhapsody, QSoft(TM), a division of VVI-DCS(TM), today announced plans to combine commercial Rhapsody and Yellow Box applications on one CD and provide subscription services for that CD.

"Rhapsody and yellow box are multi-platform and rapidly growing and evolving systems. Because of that reliable subscription services and distribution will be major issues for application users for the foreseeable future. As a result, we have produced the QSoft CD. That CD is currently comprised of the applications Create(TM), GraphBuilder(TM), Mesa (TM), OpenBase(TM) and TIFFany(TM). Those applications were distributed with the initial release of Rhapsody (RDR) from Apple and are all high quality

solutions.", said Ed VanVliet, acting Project Manager of the QSoft CD productions. He adds, "We are actively engaging cutting-edge Mac OS-based software manufacturers who want to place their Rhapsody and Yellow Box solutions on the CD. They are a very important part of the Rhapsody and Yellow Box solution and we want to enable all opportunities for them. We are currently planning new versions of the CD, with special attention to the version which coincides with the Premier release of Rhapsody in early 1998 and the Unified release of Rhapsody in mid 1998."

In the Interest of Public Service, here's some email that I received. I personally haven't seen any of these and you probably won't either, but it pays to be careful!

Watch out for these New Viruses

- '• PAT BUCHANAN VIRUS: Your system works fine, but it complains loudly about foreign software.
- '• COLIN POWELL VIRUS: Makes its presence known, but doesn't do anything. Secretly, you wish it would.
- '• HILLARY CLINTON VIRUS: Files disappear, only to reappear mysteriously a year later, in another directory.
- '• O.J. SIMPSON VIRUS: You know it's guilty of trashing your system, but you just can't prove it.
- '• STEVE FORBES VIRUS: All files are reported as the same size.
- '• PAUL REVERE VIRUS: This revolutionary virus does not horse around. It warns you of impending hard disk attack: Once, if by LAN; twice if by C.
- '• POLITICALLY CORRECT VIRUS: Never identifies itself as a "virus," but instead refers to itself as an "electronic micro-organism."
- '• ROSS PEROT VIRUS: Activates every component in your system, just before the whole thing quits.
- '• TED TURNER VIRUS: Colorizes your monochrome monitor.
- '• DAN QUAYLE VIRUS (#2): There is something wrong with your komputer, but we can't figure out what!
- '• GOVERNMENT ECONOMIST VIRUS: Nothing works, but all your diagnostic software says everything is fine.
- '• NEW WORLD ORDER VIRUS: Probably harmless, but it makes a lot of people really mad just thinking about it.
- '• FEDERAL BUREAUCRAT VIRUS: Divides your hard disk into hundreds of little units, each of which does practically nothing, but all of which claim to be the most important part of your computer.
- '• GALLUP VIRUS: Sixty percent of the PC's infected will lose 30 percent of their data 14 percent of the time (plus or minus a 3.5 percent margin of error).
- '• TEXAS VIRUS: Makes sure that it's bigger than any other file.
- '• ADAM AND EVE VIRUS: Takes a couple bytes out of your Apple.

- ^• CONGRESSIONAL VIRUS: The computer locks up, and the screen splits in half with the same message appearing on each side of the screen. The message says that the blame for the gridlock is caused by the other side.
- ^• AIRLINE LUGGAGE VIRUS: You're in Dallas, but your data is in Singapore.
- ^• FREUDIAN VIRUS: Your computer becomes obsessed with marrying its own motherboard.
- ^• PBS VIRUS: Your programs stop every few minutes to ask for money.
- ^• ELVIS VIRUS: Your computer gets fat, slow, and lazy, then self destructs, only to resurface at shopping malls and service stations across rural America.
- ^• OLLIE NORTH VIRUS: Causes your printer to become a paper shredder.
- ^• NIKE VIRUS: Just does it.
- ^• SEARS VIRUS: Your data won't appear unless you buy new cables, power supply, and a set of shocks.
- ^• JIMMY HOFFA VIRUS: Your programs can never be found again.
- ^• KEVORKIAN VIRUS: Helps your computer shut down as an act of mercy.
- ^• STAR TREK VIRUS: Invades your system in places where no virus has gone before.
- ^• HEALTH CARE VIRUS: Tests your system once a day, finds nothing wrong, and sends you a bill for \$4,500.
- ^• OPRAH WINFREY VIRUS: Your 200mb hard drive suddenly shrinks to 80mb and then slowly expands back to 200mb.

That's the joke of the week. If you'd like to see more "humor" in this column. Drop me a line.

Seeya next time!!

randyn@thor.pla-net.net

Kids Computing Corner
 Frank Sereno, Editor
 fsereno@streport.com

The Kids' Computing Corner
 Computer news and software reviews
 from a parent's point of view

From Frank's Desk

If you are interested in winning a free educational program, please see last week's issue for the rules. If you are interested in receiving evaluation software in return for writing software reviews, send an e-mail to fsereno@uti.com for more details. And on with the column...

In the News

THE "ANIMANIACS" ESCAPE FROM THE WARNER BROS. WATER TOWER TO YOUR COMPUTER SCREEN

CANTON, Conn., Nov. 4, 1997 - Warner Bros.' Emmy award-winning "Steven Spielberg's Presents Animaniacs" cartoon series - which was named "the coolest Saturday morning cartoon show" by TV Guide - is now available on the computer screen, Funnybone Interactive, a division of CUC Software, announced today. Very cool, hilariously hip and totally insane, the Animaniacs Game Pack is the first in the company's new "Play Zone!" series, which is designed to provide wholesome entertainment and challenging arcade-action fun for kids of all ages.

The Animaniacs Game Pack explodes with five zany arcade games, wild Animaniacs shenanigans and non-stop laughs for kids ages 8 and up, and also features a special guest appearance by "Steven Spielberg's Pinky & The Brain." As an added bonus, players are rewarded with Animaniacs wallpaper, desktop icons and sound files.

Says Todd Coyle, CUC Software's senior vice president of consumer products, "We're excited to launch our new kids' entertainment line -- Play Zone -- with the Animaniacs Game Pack. The Play Zone series is designed to provide the fast-paced arcade excitement that kids love, without the needless violence of many 'adult' games.

"Along with great game play, the Animaniacs Game Pack boasts TV-quality animation, catchy music and Animaniacs-style wit and humor. Off-the-wall characters like Yakko, Wakko and Dot lend themselves extremely well to multimedia. Kids will have lots of fun interacting with these entertaining cartoon personalities and playing wacky, arcade-style games."

Very Cool, Hilariously Hip, Totally Insane

The Animaniacs Game Pack stars Yakko, Wakko - and their sister, Dot - three inseparable, fun-loving siblings who have a great time wreaking havoc and mayhem in the lives of everyone they meet. In the Warner siblings' latest attempt to escape from the famed Warner Bros. Water Tower, the trio, once again, races across the Warner Bros. studio lot in a mad dash for freedom. This time, however, the zany siblings run smack dab into your monitor screen and find themselves in the middle of a computer game. As the trio "redecorates" your desktop, they'll dish out a bunch of oversized icons, representing five multi-leveled arcade-style games:

Smoocher! - Dot is having freaky nightmares. Get rid of the "nightmare bad guys" by blowing kisses and smacking them silly with her charm.

Baloney's Balloon Bop! - Use Yakko, the bouncing Animaniac, to pop Baloney's balloons and spoil the annoying polyester dinosaur's party before he hugs again.

Belchinator Too! - A robot army has taken over the ACME labs. Use Wakko's secret weapon, a burp, to defeat the robots before it's too late.

Tee Off! - Join Dot in a wild game of miniature golf at the Warner Bros. studio lot.

Prop-Shop Drop! - The studio needs props for its new made-for-TV movie. Help Yakko race through the nutty warehouse collecting the props before time runs out.

Great Game Play, Non-Stop Laughs and Family Fun Entertainment

The Animaniacs Game Pack offers Animaniacs fans several key features and benefits, including:

- Five multi-leveled, arcade-style games to keep kids playing for hours

- Special bonus allows players to customize their computer desktops with Animaniacs wallpaper patterns, icons and sounds

- Animaniacs-style wit and shenanigans provide non-stop laughs

- The extraordinary original voice talent of Yakko, Wakko and Dot - portrayed by Rob Paulsen, Jess Harnell and Tress MacNeille, respectively

- Seamless TV-quality animation

- Catchy tunes and sounds, including all-new, hilarious lyrics to the original Animaniacs theme song

The Coolest Saturday Morning Cartoon Show

"Steven Spielberg Presents Animaniacs" premiered in September 1993 on the FOX Kids' Network to rave reviews. The series moved to Kids' WB! in 1995, where all-new episodes continue to broadcast along with vintage favorites. Winner of the prestigious George Foster Peabody Award, the show is the second collaborative effort between the creative forces of Steven Spielberg and Warner Bros. Television Animation, the first being "Steven Spielberg Presents Tiny Toon Adventures." "Animaniacs" has won six Daytime Emmy Awards, which include two awards for Outstanding Children's Animated Program.

Availability, Pricing and System Requirements

The Animaniacs Game Pack is immediately available at most major computer stores and mass-merchant chains nationwide. The Windows 95/Power Macintosh CD-ROM is expected to be priced at approximately \$20. Customers can call (800) 545-7677 for sales and ordering information.

System requirements for the Animaniacs Game Pack are as follows:

Windows 95 CD-ROM

66 MHz 486 or faster (Pentium recommended) with 16 MB RAM; double-speed CD-ROM; Windows 95-compatible sound card; video card capable of 640x480x256 colors.

Power Macintosh CD-ROM

Power Macintosh with 16 MB RAM; System 7.1 or better; double-speed CD-ROM.

Funnybone Interactive is a division of CUC Software Services, Inc., a

subsidiary of CUC International Inc. (NYSE: CU). The company has developed over 100 titles for leading education and entertainment software publishers such as Davidson & Associates, Sierra On-Line, Creative Wonders and Simon & Schuster Interactive. Based in Canton, Connecticut, Funnybone Interactive was founded in 1985.

Warner Bros. Consumer Products, which includes the Licensing, Studio Stores, Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment, WB Sport and WB Toys divisions, is a division of Time Warner Entertainment Company, L.P.

ANIMANIACS, characters, names and all related indicia are trademarks of Warner Bros., 1997.

Reprinted with permission from TV Guide, 1996 News America Publications, Inc.

#

Every once in a while, something comes across my desk that is not normally within the children's software genre. On the other hand, with Christmas less than two months away, the product listed below might make a nice stocking stuffer for Dad or older brother.

Inside Sports Swimsuit Calendar 1998
Windows and Mac hybrid
Street Price: \$19.99
for ages 13 to adult

NT-K/Memorex Software
18000 Studebaker Road, Suite 200
Cerritos CA 90703
1-(310)-403-0039
<http://www.mrxsoftware.com>

Program Requirements

IBM	Macintosh
OS: Windows 3.1, Windows 95 later	OS: System 6.0.7 or later
CPU: 486SX/33	CPU: 68030/25
HD Space: 6 MB	HD Space: 6 MB
Memory: 4 MB	Memory: 3 MB
Graphics: 640 by 480 with 256 colors 256 colors, 13" monitor	Graphics: 640 by 480 with 256 colors 256 colors, 13" monitor
CD-ROM: Double-speed	CD-ROM: Double-speed
Audio: 8-bit Windows compatible sound card	
Other: mouse	

review by Frank Sereno (fsereno@streport.com)

As the end of another year draws nigh, we creatures of habit begin our search for the perfect calendar for the next year. It's been a tradition for decades to combine pictures of beautiful women with a printed calendar. That custom has transcended into the computer era with the Inside Sports Swimsuit Calendar. This offering from Memorex Software features the alluring Donna D'Errico, star of the Baywatch televisions series and a former Playboy centerfold. If you're looking for a simple electronic calendar, then Inside Sports Swimsuit Calendar is a good choice.

The program is not complicated. It has three main options. You can watch the opening movie sequence, view the still photos or go to the calendar. If you want to get the most viewing pleasure for the movies, set your display to 24-bit resolution. The program has more than forty still photos and many are linked to short movies of the photo shoots. You can make a personal slideshow with up to ten of the photos. The photos have notes that contain a brief biography of the model, information about the shot, etc. If you enjoy swimsuit photography, you'll certainly enjoy this portion of the program.

The calendar portion is functional and spartan. On the left side of the screen you see a photograph. On the right side you see a seven day calendar. You can easily navigate to any week from August '97 to February '99 by clicking on a particular date. After February '99, it will be time to buy a new calendar. You can add up to three lines of text on each date to note appointments, special events or to keep a very rudimentary journal. You can also print each calendar page so you can have a handy hard copy of your notes but it does not include a printout of the swimsuit photography.

As an added bonus, Memorex includes a set of After Dark compatible screen saver images so you can sit back for a few minutes and let your screen saver carry you away to tropical climes and romantic settings.

This program is very lean as far as calendars go with no PIM's, no activity alarms, address books, etc. It doesn't even note the holidays, but it is inexpensive and functional. Anyone who enjoys viewing the female form in sexy swimwear will enjoy the photography. I'm sure most of you can think of a friend or family member who would enjoy this as a birthday or Christmas gift.

Jason's Jive

Jason Sereno, STR Staff
jsereno@streport.com

Space Bar
Windows 95 and MAC CD-ROM
Street Price: \$29.99
For mature audiences

Segasoft
1-888-segasoft
www.segasoft.com

WIN 95 Program Requirements

Windows 95, Pentium 75, 16 MB RAM,
1-Bit SVGA graphics, 4X CD-ROM drive,
8-Bit Windows 95 Direct X-compatible sound card,
Microsoft compatible keyboard and mouse.

Macintosh Program Requirements

Power PC 6100, System 7.5 or better,
4X CD-ROM, 16 MB RAM, color monitor

In the new first person comedy from Segasoft, entitled Space Bar, you play as Alias Node, a human detective working to apprehend a criminal before he escapes the planet Armpit VI. Your only clues as to where to find this criminal, wanted for grand theft and murder, are the dying words of a police woman after she tried to catch the thief. She tells you to find the crook at a bar beside the planet's spaceport before he escapes Armpit VI forever.

After you and your partner enter the bar, you realize that apprehending the suspect should prove to be a harder task than you had first thought. Inside the spacebar lie many different species of aliens. Everything from arm-less extraterrestrial heads in a mayonnaise bottle to talking juice mugs are located inside this bar. After you enter and speak with a few of the passing guests (suspects as far as you're concerned), you find your partner has been kidnapped by the thief. He demands that you show yourself to him or your partner will surely die. Other story twists occur during play that add humor and melodrama to this game.

Alias Node is not just any detective. While he talks to people, he actually harnesses the power to enter their minds and recreate events that happened before they reached Armpit VI. Each time he enters someone's past you must solve puzzles or observe certain events to gain clues and save your friend's life. He is equipped with smelling and voice sampling devices as well. These things are all useful in the game.

You will find yourself using those devices often too, in you plan on winning the game. There are hundreds of puzzles to solve and an abundance of rooms in the Space Bar. Each area just might hold the key to finding the crook. You walk through the spacebar in smooth-motion graphics of the alien landscape. A wide variety of colors and atmospheres are located in this speakeasy.

The creator of this game, Steve Meretzky or Infocom fame, creates some serious laughter in this 3 disc game. He is helped by the character designer of the cantina scene in Star Wars, Ron Cobb. The two combine to make an assortment of weird and wacky alien life-forms.

One drawback in Space Bar is the long wait while switching between discs. While you start to converse with an alien, you must switched CD ROMS. This is for when you eventually enter their mind and start solving puzzles. Each disc is designed for certain extraterrestrials. The only aggravating thing is when you plan on exiting the aliens mind and stop talking to them. You will have to switch discs again too. The actual wait seems longer than average when compared to other multi-disc games.

Besides this drawback, Space Bar is a fine game and a good mix of humor and mystery. The wide assortment of aliens and their antics should keep you in

stitches. The landscape of Armpit VI should keep you entertained as well amazed. If you purchase this game, you can look forward to many, many happy hours!

Things to look forward to in Jason's Jive:
Compton's 1998 Deluxe Interactive Encyclopedia
Sierra's Outpost
Southpeak's Temujin
Test Drive 4 from Accolade
and much, much more.

Special Notice!! STR Infofile File format for Articles

File Format for STReport

All articles submitted to STReport for publication must be sent in the following format. Please use the format requested. Any files received that do not conform will not be used. The article must be in an importable word processor format for Word 6.0 and/or Word Perfect 7.. The margins are .05" left and 1.0" Monospaced fonts are not to be used. Please use proportional fonting only and at Twelve (12) points.

- `• No Indenting on any paragraphs!!
- `• No Indenting of any lines or "special gimmickery"
- `• No underlining!
- `• Columns shall be achieved through the use of tabs only. Or, columns in Word or Word Perfect format. Do NOT, under any circumstances, use the space bar.
- `• Most of all.. PLEASE! No ASCII "ART"!!
- `• There is no limits as to size, articles may be split into two if lengthy
- `• Actual Artwork should be in GIF, PCX, JPG, TIF, BMP, WMF file formats
- `• Artwork (pictures, graphs, charts, etc.) should be sent along with the article separately
- `• Please use a single font only in an article. TTF New Times Roman 12pt. is preferred. (VERY Strong Hint)

If there are any questions please use either E-Mail or call. On another note. the ASCII version of STReport is fast approaching the "end of the line" As the major Online Services move away from ASCII.. So shall STReport. All in the name of progress and improved readability. The amount of reader mail expressing a preference for our Adobe PDF enhanced issue is running approximately 15 to 1 over the ASCII edition. I might add however, the requests for our issues to be done in HTML far outnumber both PDF and ascii. HTML is now under consideration. We'll keep you posted. Besides, STReport will not be caught in the old, worn out "downward compatibility dodge" we must move forward.

However, if the ASCII readership remains as high, rest assured. ASCII will stay. Right now, since STReport is offered on a number of closed major corporate Intranets as "required" Monday Morning reading.. Our ascii readers have nothing to worry themselves about. It looks like it is here to stay.

Many grateful thanks in advance for your enthusiastic co-operation and input.

Ralph F. Mariano, Editor
rmariano@streport.com
STReport International Online Magazine

STR Editor's Mail Call "...a place for the readers to be heard"

Editor's MailBag

Messages * NOT EDITED * for content

In reply to our DOJ Tilting at Windmills article.

Date: Wed, 05 Nov 1997 10:03:56 +0200
To: rmariano@streport.com
Subject: My opinion on 'DOJ Tilting at Windmills - AGAIN!'
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable
X-MIME-Autoconverted: from 8bit to quoted-printable by
mailhub.southeast.net id DAA10353
X-UIDL: 951e7262223f47f3aa92b494792d191a

In respect to your article, I have a few points to make. I won't try to prove you right or wrong; I won't try to prove DOJ's move right or wrong either; what I will try to do is point out what I believe should be the case.

I am not a US citizen, thus I cannot really understand the intricate details of your politics. You say that the DOJ should be more occupied with dealing with organized crime, than with screening Microsoft for its practices. I agree, as far as that organized crime's prevention and suppression should be a priority. This stands true for every country's justice department.

But when the company screened is one who has the size, the power and the will to change the world, as Microsoft has, we can't possibly expect the State to just let it go its own way. This is after all, what the State is all about, regulating certain aspects of our life. A company that is part

of a free market should be free to grow, but not enjoy immunity to the law in the name of market freedom.

Microsoft does generate a huge amount of tax income for the US, as well as jobs. But taking such factors under consideration when viewing a company's tactics, results in politics, not justice. And politics means compromises while justice accepts none.

Microsoft enjoys an almost monopolistic state. In theory, everyone is free to use any operating system or programs besides Microsoft's. But for the average PC user we all know that there is not another viable option than Microsoft's. It's about time for someone to notice. Microsoft enjoys this state since DOS was introduced and it only became stronger with Windows.

You say others, once they get a hold on you as a customer, charge you dearly for even the simplest things. Microsoft will do the same, once it gets the chance, as would any other company. There is not such a thing as a good or a bad company. They are all out there for the money. Their image, the feeling that they care for you, is just a matter of public relations.

The competition approves the move, naturally. You say its 'lame at best'. I agree, but Microsoft has done everything in its power to make it such. Legally or not, that is to be decided. You must have noticed by now that I haven't even mentioned whether Microsoft should integrate the Internet Explorer in Windows. It says that adding new features in Windows is its privilege. I agree, after all it owns the operating system! The fight over the term 'new operating system feature' is meaningless. Pretty much everything can be dimmed an operating system feature and added to it.

I believe this is not the case. What should be the real case is how far should Microsoft be allowed to go? Microsoft has helped PCs spread, but if its practices force the computer industry to drop every other solution in favor of its own, then Microsoft hurts the industry. Innovation and progress come only as the result of choice; we must ensure that choices exist, as well as the ability to make a new choice available. If a company, any company, acquires too much power, its practices are sure to lead to one choice only, the one it offers.

DOJ should take a look at the computer industry as a whole, since every company with some power over others dictates its own rules. Microsoft is certainly not the only one; but its actions affect the most. It should be a start and not a fancy move. Otherwise, it will also heart the industry, even worse than letting things take their way.

Be well, and keep up the good work!

Regards,

Christos Tsirimokos

Visit my homepage! <http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/8833> (updated Nov 04 1997)

Christos,

I can call you by your first name can't I? You make many valid points. Most of which would be wonderful in a perfect world. Alas, such is not the case. Microsoft may have some "warts" but at least they've made themselves successful. With this success, comes the good fortunes and well fed families of untold thousands both within and outside the company. Some have said they think MS will be forced to "splinter off" a few divisions

much like AT&T was forced to do. That's a laugh.. AT&T's forced split-off was completely reversed during this administration's Republican majority in both the House and Senate. Further. Can any of the criers boast of like results (as in MS's)? I doubt it. While the criers carry on about the offensive manner in which MS does business, they fail to offer an open book to prove they have never resorted to the very same business tactics they "oh, so self righteously, accuse MS of. You'll never see a "full disclosure" from say, Netscape but. I'd be happy to produce some of the hate mail we received from them and others..

I believe my "weakness" if I might be as bold as to call it that is my overall experience in this business. I've been a veritable "Fly on the Wall" in the computing community since the late seventies. I've seen many come and go. Including some of the biggest of names. I've walked in on meetings of the biggest of Whigs in the business (King Kahn to name drop for one) at Comdex and believe this. If I were to be witness to legit "unfair" business tactics. I'd be the very first to jump up and make all sorts of noises to draw attention to the situation. Ask Sam or Jack Tramiel. <g> Perhaps one of the trickiest "operators" in the business years ago would agree. Neil Harris. In any case, I'd like to think that this week's editorial pretty much sums up my sentiments. I hate a double standard. At this time that's exactly what this whole shtick of the DOJ's and Sen. Orin Hatch's appears to be. Why didn't Hatch question the Ollie North, Iran Contra thing further? Why didn't he insist upon calling Georgie and Ronnie to testify as to who was really calling the shots?? There's the hated "double standard" again. Wouldn't a "perfect world" be neat? Boring but neat.

In Microsoft's case, I say what's good for the goose is good for the gander. the problem that the crier's are sobbing over is Microsoft beat them all to the punch. <g>

The Linux Advocate

by Scott Dowdle

LOGIN:

Hello from Great Falls, Montana. My name is Scott Dowdle and I hope to write a continuous bi-weekly (or monthly) column on the Linux Operating System here in STR.

Who am I?

I'm not a computer professional but I hope to be one someday as I'm pursuing a BS in Computer Information Systems at Montana State University Northern, Great Falls campus. As you can tell, I'm not a professional writer but I do try and that's what counts, right? :) Rather than go into an abbreviated history of myself, I'll just refer anyone interested to my Internet homepage where I've gone into pretty good depth already.

Scott Dowdle's Homepage: ...and feel free to contact me via email: If you feel that you must, you can call long distance information and ask for Scott Dowdle in Great Falls, Montana and talk to me over the phone, but I'd prefer email first.

I don't claim to be a Unix guru nor an expert on Linux but I feel that I know enough to point people in the right direction(s) even on Linux topics

that I've not gone too far into. Let it be known that the mother load of Linux information is provided by the Linux Documentation Project. The LDP is a collection of digital books, HOWTOs and man pages, among other things, that have been gathered up by the LDP team to benefit the Linux community. The LDP is available from many different sites on the Internet (ie mirrored) and the Internet URL I use is: <http://www.caldera.com/LDP/>

If that Internet URL seems to be slow for you, do a search for "Linux Documentation Project" on your favorite Internet Search Engine (like www.yahoo.com) and see what you come up with. There are literally thousands upon thousands of Linux related homepages and sites. As part of my efforts to inform the reader, I'll include URLs for what I consider to be the better Linux related Internet resources.

Planned format for this column:

I'm a fairly spontaneous person (perhaps a fault) who likes to keep things loose BUT I plan on following a general outline. With each release of this column, I hope to devote a certain amount of space to the following topics: 1) Linux History, 2) Linux News, 3) Linux Myth Dispelling, 4) Linux Distribution Spotlight, and 5) Linux Application Spotlight. Of course you'll find plenty of personal comments and opinions thrown in for good measure and I plan to have a "Why Use Linux - special applications" feature, just not ever column installment. Just keep in mind, your mileage may vary. In the future I'll probably rearrange the order some to keep people from falling asleep. :) Also, although no graphics (ie screenshots) are included in this edition of the column, I plan on including them in future columns where they seem appropriate and when given the blessing of STR's editor. I might as well get started.

Linux History: First of all, what is Linux?

Just so you know, I've been using Linux for about three years and I feel very comfortable with it. Linux is an Operating System kernel that is available for many different computer platforms. Linux was originally "born" in 1991 on the Intel 80386 family, a child of then college student (University of Helsinki, Finland) Linus Torvalds. At the very beginning Linus announced his intention to write a Unix like operating system kernel that takes advantage of the special features of the Intel 80386 processor. Linus was both inspired and frustrated by a semi-commercial Operating System named Minix.

Minix was/is an Operating System that is freely available with a book called OPERATING SYSTEMS DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION by Andrew S. Tannenbaum. Linus got into Unix in college and wanted to run a Unix like system at home and the only affordable choice at the time was Minix. Minix was/is written almost completely in C and complete source code for the system is included in the book (now in its 2nd edition), as examining computer operating system theory as well as how to implement theory in code is the main point of the book.

Minix was Unix-like but since it didn't use any of the advanced features of the 80386, which seemed to be specially designed for multitasking and all of the issues that come along with it (like memory protection), Linus started hacking away at a system of his own. He made a public announcement on the comp.os.minix newsgroup letting people know of his plans and asking them to join in if they wanted to, as he planned to release the complete C source code publicly via the Internet so that anyone interested could get it. Computer hacker/geeks WERE interested and the rest is history... a history that I'll do my best to document as the columns go by. Enough

history for now.

Linux News:

None this month. It's a new column so everything is news this time. :)

Dispelling some Linux myths:

There are two big factors that have been a great source of MYTHS about Linux, and understandably so. I plan to use this part of the column to dispell as many myths as I can. The factors I mentioned are: 1) Linux is freely distributable and built with freely distributable development tools, and 2) Linux is a flavor of the Unix operating system. Someone has already delved heavily into dispelling Linux myths and has made an Internet homepage out of the topic. In future columns, I will probably borrow heavily from this information resource and the reader is certainly encouraged to visit:

<http://www.KenAndTed.com/KensBookmark/linux/index.html>

It isn't the most well written site, as the author doesn't spell well sometimes (must be a computer hacker/geek thing - as they tend not to spell well, and as a matter of fact, my spelling ability is diminishing with the more CIS education I get, haha)... but don't let that stop you. The site is full of understandable content, and that is what is important, right? Anyway, now onto some myth introduction statements.

It is human nature to assume that if something is free, it can't be very good, and it certainly couldn't hold up to commercial products, right? While that can be and is true for many things in life, it is an absolute fallacy when it comes to Linux and over time, I'll try my best to prove that.

The Unix Operating System (and forgive me for ignoring to put "(tm)" after every usage of the world Unix) was originally developed by Bell Labs for AT&T in 1969 and refined in the early 70's. I will not attempt a historical review of Unix because that has little to do with the myth I'm trying to dispell. The myth is --- that Unix is ancient, written for mainframe computers and has a horrible user interface. Many silly myths have sprung up as a result of the previously mentioned myth. Some people think that Unix requires a 8 inch floppy disk, reel to reel tape drives, and couldn't possibly have a color display or use a mouse. Like the "Linux is free and free stuff can't be any good" myth, the Unix is ancient and too hard to use myth is... another absolute fallacy. While it is true that most of the core Unix software tools still rely on a command line interface with lots of command flag parameters, which strikes fear into the hearts of "Windows-babies" (to twist a borrowed term from the very editor of this publication, Ralph Mariano, who basically called anyone who complained about the upcoming Microsoft Windows 98 release "DOS-babies"). Fear not babies, Unix has the best of both the GUI and the CLI worlds once you know where to look. I'll get into giving some examples of that in this part of the column as time goes by. :) Just so you know, it is a fact that Microsoft is making every new release of their Windows Operating Systems (NT and 95/98) more Unix like even if it isn't obvious in the enduser. In fact, "The Bill" claimed at the introduction of Windows NT that NT would be "a better Unix than Unix." For me, when it comes to making Windows NT a better Unix than Unix... I think NT stands for "Nice Try." :) hahahaa

Distribution Spotlight:

Ok, so above (or on the previous page, whatever the case may be) I told you

that Linux was an "operating system kernel" and you might have wondered... THATS GREAT, BUT WHAT IS THAT AND WHAT CAN IT DO FOR ME? That's where the Distributions of Linux come in. What is a distribution? Basically, a distribution of Linux is a nice, convenient package of the Linux kernel, the core Unix software tools, and a slew of optional software utilities and applications... ALL in a nice and easy to install package, usually on CD-ROM. A distribution maker gathers up the best available software from the vast Unix software resources (ie, the Internet) and provides a method of installing and removing software as well as basic configurations for the most complex software packages. In other words, the distribution makers are the people who make Linux into a usable system... to take it from the level of "Hacker Only" and attempt to make Linux into an "End User" system. Distribution makers don't stand still for very long and are constantly refining their work. There are about a dozen different Linux distributions to choose from but I'll stick to the more popular packages for simplicity... besides, I'm not familiar with every Linux distribution, just the more popular ones.

In the next column I plan on covering the Red Hat Commercial Linux distribution. Since this column is running long I'll leave it at that but I do want to provide some Internet WWW links for those who don't want to have to wait on me. :) Software in the Public Interest aka Debian - Red Hat Software - Caldera Inc. - <http://www.caldera.com>

Application Spotlight:

Again, due to space limitations, I'm going to skip this part of the column this month. In the next column I plan on a mini-review of ApplixWare for Linux distributed by Red Hat Software. For advanced info on ApplixWare, feel free to visit the previously mentioned Red Hat homepage and cruise the links there. I'm NOT trying to push Red Hat Software or anything and will most certainly be bringing up other products and topics as time goes by.

In any event, yet again, there already exists an excellent, organized Internet resource for links to hundreds of Linux applications. This is the Linux Applications Homepage and it can be found at the following URL: <http://www.xnet.com/~blatura/linapps.shtml>

LOGOUT:

That's more than enough for this edition of the The Linux Advocate column. I hope it provided some reasonable information as well as some further reading resources that you will find enjoyable. Again, I'd like to encourage interested readers to contact me via email or to visit my homepage (see the LOGIN section at the beginning of this column) NOT because I'm some egotistical person trying to gather WWW hits (I don't even have a counter on my homepage) but because I enjoy leading people to Linux and helping them along the way. I remember what it was like to be a computer beginner and don't look down my nose at anyone at any level.

dpj@streport.com

>From the Atari Editor's Desk

"Saying it like it is!"

While sitting here doing this week's column, I'm slowly making some headway decreasing the leftover Halloween "treats" from last week. Our new neighbors hinted that we'd likely be visited by 80-100 assorted ghosts, goblins and witches; so we planned accordingly. However, we fell short of those numbers. As "luck" <vbg> would have it, the remaining candy just happened to be all the kinds that my wife and I enjoy. How fortuitous! In any case, it was fun to once again have children coming by the house trick-or-treating!

One of the things that provides me enjoyment doing this column week after week is the opportunity to voice an opinion regarding some "significant" topic. In the past few weeks it's been difficult to do that, for whatever reason (lack of time, topic, etc.). I try to keep most of my editorials related to something Atari-related. This is not always the case, but for the most part it's been easy enough to do. Lately, it doesn't work out that way. Has my interest declined? No. But my motivation has certainly been compromised due to non-related reasons. Folks, it ain't easy, week after week after week. I'm hoping that things change in near future; I miss the opportunity to pique your interest on all things Atari.

We've got an interesting issue this week, albeit all gaming news. Little has changed on the Atari scene - it's "business as usual".

Until next time...

Gaming Section

"Riven" Hits the Shelves!
SlamSite!
"Crash Bandicoot 2"!!
"Test Drive 4"!
"Colony Wars" Released!
And more!

Industry News STR Game Console NewsFile - The Latest Gaming News!

Myst Sequel Hits Shelves

The long-awaited sequel to Myst, the best-selling computer game of all time, hits the shelves today. Called "Riven," the game is being published for PowerPC and Windows by Red Orb Entertainment, the Broderbund Software division. Writing for the Newsbytes computer news service, reporter Craig Menefee says the game takes off where Myst left off, and "even commentators who have found fault with Riven as a game -- some say it is too grim - say Riven goes to a new level of detail in graphics, animation, sound, and use of live actors." But note: if you have old computer equipment, don't expect to be able to play the game. The game -- which comes on five CDROM discs -- carried these minimum recommended setups:

- For Wintel machines, Windows 95 with a Pentium or compatible 100 MHz (megahertz) or faster microprocessor, 16MB RAM with a minimum of 75 MB hard disk space available, 4X CD-ROM or faster, 640x480 display, High Color, a Windows compatible sound device and video and sound cards compatible with DirectX.
- For Mac systems, System 7.5 or higher, 90 MHz PowerPC or faster, 9MB RAM free with a minimum of 65 MB hard disk space available, 4X CD-ROM drive or faster, 640x480 display, and thousands of colors.

Game authors Rand and Robyn Miller say that while Myst players will appreciate the continuity in Riven, the sequel does not depend on first being familiar with Myst. Broderbund is not putting a suggested retail price on the game, but Newsbytes says street prices for the game are expected to run from \$45 to \$50.

Crash is Back; Sequel to Best-Selling PlayStation Platform Game

FOSTER CITY, CALIF. (Nov. 6) BUSINESS WIRE - Nov. 6, 1997 - Making its way to storefronts just in time for the 1997 holiday season, Sony Computer Entertainment America today launched Crash Bandicoot 2: Cortex Strikes Back(TM), available only on the PlayStation(TM) game console, selling at a "power price" of \$39.95 MSRP. The original, Crash Bandicoot(TM), was one of the most successful PlayStation platform games of 1996 with sales in excess of 1.7 million units worldwide, and more than 600,000 copies in North America alone.

Produced by Universal Interactive Studios, Inc. (UIS), a division of Universal Studios, and created and developed by Naughty Dog, Inc., Crash Bandicoot 2 once again redefines classic 3D action platform gaming. Taking the genre to all new heights to enhance the gamer's total playing experience, Crash Bandicoot 2 features bigger and bolder 3D graphics, more moves and animations, amazingly detailed and colorful environments, multiple camera views, fully-modeled animated characters, and music and sound effects created by professional movie effects editors.

"Crash Bandicoot 2: Cortex Strikes Back is a must-have title for every new and existing PlayStation owner this holiday season," said Andrew House, vice president, marketing, Sony Computer Entertainment America. "The original Crash Bandicoot proved its mass popularity and appeal to gamers of all ages around the world and created Crash Bandicoot fans everywhere. The sequel will continue Crash Bandicoot's reign as one of the most popular PlayStation games available."

A standout title for consumers around the globe, Crash Bandicoot 2: Cortex Strikes Back brings back the star qualities that made the original version such a hit, a character fans love and a whole new world to explore. Proving its continued worldwide appeal, Crash Bandicoot 2 has already sold more than half a million units through a pre-buy program in Japan.

"Capitalizing on Crash's heritage as a true 3D action platform game, Crash Bandicoot 2: Cortex Strikes Back allows players to maintain full control as they test Crash Bandicoot's brand new moves and combos - sliding, jumping, swinging, flying with a jet pack, surfing on a jetboard and more," said Mark Cerny, president, Universal Interactive Studios, Inc and producer of Crash Bandicoot 2: Cortex Strikes Back. "Featuring the zany antics of Crash Bandicoot, the players maneuver in and around the fully animated worlds, solving puzzles, tackling new hidden levels, sub-levels and other secret paths."

Twice the "size" of the original, Crash Bandicoot 2: Cortex Strikes Back immerses players in a series of warp rooms or "centralized rooms," consisting of multiple areas which allow players to choose among five or six levels at a time, providing a highly mobile, non-linear path through the game.

"Crash Bandicoot 2's polygon engine and special effects capabilities again redefine the cutting edge, 3D high-resolution look and feel of the game," stated Jason Rubin, president, Naughty Dog, Inc. "Naughty Dog's unique approach to game development, combined with the proven popularity of the Crash Bandicoot character, guarantees that Crash Bandicoot 2: Cortex Strikes Back will be a spectacular hit with gamers worldwide."

In the game, players take a ride with the fast-moving marsupial, Crash Bandicoot, who is rejoined with the infamous Dr. Neo Cortex. The characters are reintroduced to gamers in a cinematic sequence with Crash Bandicoot defeating Cortex, causing him to fall from the air balloon circling his evil fortress through a hidden cavern below ground. It is there that the exciting new adventures begin. Returning characters, Dr. N. Brio and Ripper Roo are encountered along the way, as well as the introduction of new characters, including N. Gin, Kimodo Moe & Joe, and Crash's little sister, Coco.

Psygnosis Releases Colony Wars to Retail Stores

FOSTER CITY, CALIF. (Nov. 4) BUSINESS WIRE - Nov. 4, 1997 - Today Psygnosis ships Colony Wars(TM) to retail outlets around the globe. A PlayStation(TM) game console exclusive, Colony Wars is a sci-fi shooter riding a wave of critical acclaim. Game Pro magazine considers Colony Wars to be "worth buying the day it's released." It has been hailed as "one of the most dazzling games ever created on the PlayStation" by Ultra Game Players magazine and described by EGM magazine as "Star Wars on steroids." Colony Wars has an expected street price of \$49.95 for the PlayStation game console.

Colony Wars was developed internally by Psygnosis' Liverpool Studio. The title is being supported by a \$2.5 million dollar campaign in the U.S. which includes: national TV broadcast and cable advertising; a print campaign; sweepstakes, inclusion onto demo discs packed into PlayStation game console units and Sony's JAMPACK demo disc; and a comprehensive in-store merchandising program. Psygnosis LTD's European publishing divisions have launched similar campaigns utilizing local agencies. Television ads will run for nine weeks and broke yesterday in the U.S. with the visually arresting 'Flowers' campaign featuring an orphaned girl recounting her losses at the hand of the Czar.

The unanimous critical plaudits for Colony Wars reflect the game's groundbreaking visual effects (Game Pro: "visuals of this caliber usually come from a special effects studio") and the unprecedented depth of gameplay for a title in this genre (PSM: "(you'll) play it for a very long time"). This reflects the fact that Colony Wars was created by some of the most experienced PlayStation developers working today, drawing from their experience on many of Psygnosis' biggest hits, including WipeOut(TM), Codename Tenka(TM) and Krazy Ivan(TM).

The game itself places the player at the center of an epic space battle between the colonized forces of the League Of Free Worlds and the colonists of Earth (for once, native Earthlings are the enemy in this game). There are over 70 levels which can be played, though the branching mission tree will ensure that, at most, 30 or so are seen in even the most successful

campaign, giving the player plenty of replay value and true variety.

The missions themselves build into increasingly elaborate deep-space dog-fights designed to test players piloting skills, trigger-fingers and strategic smarts (training levels are provided to bring rookies up to speed). Objectives vary from rescuing prisoners from heavily guarded outposts to escorting cargo ships through hostile territories and conducting intelligence-gathering reconnaissance missions.

"Space" itself is a fantastically realized free-flight environment of five solar systems featuring warp-tunnels guard stations, asteroids, communication stations and star nebulae. Colony Wars' features include true 3D virtual cockpits (a different one for each of the six craft the player will pilot), a unique 3D space-map (a boon to navigation when there's no up or down) and two highly detailed 'live' data-bases, one covering both allied and enemy ships, the other, the planetary systems in which this epic conflict will be played out.

While the intense gameplay and visually stunning in-game graphics are the most outstanding features of Colony Wars, also of note is the in-game audio, particularly the extensive use of content-specific voice-overs from "wing men" and your mission HQ, which further add to the sense of "being there" at the center of raging space-battles. Computer animated link sequences from some of the most talented animators in the business further the story line of the war between the League Of Free Worlds and the Colonial forces of Earth.

Accolade's Hottest Racing Game Ever, Test Drive 4, Ships This Week

SAN JOSE, CALIF. (Nov. 3) BUSINESS WIRE -Nov. 3, 1997--Exotic super-cars challenge "muscle cars" of the past in Test Drive(TM) 4, Accolade's new racing game for Sony's PlayStation game console, which begins shipping this week. The PC CD-ROM version will begin shipping on November 24th. "Test Drive 4 will be our top selling title this holiday season," said Jim Barnett, president and CEO of Accolade, Inc. "With its state-of-the-art 3D technology and well-known licensed cars, Test Drive fans will be pleased with the game's spectacular return to the streets."

Test Drive 4 lets you get behind the wheel of ten licensed cars, including 1969 and 1998 Corvette, 1969 Camaro, 1970 Chevelle, Shelby Cobra, 1998 Dodge(R) Viper, Plymouth(R) Hemi Cuda 426, TVR Cerbera, 1995 Nissan 300ZX, and Jaguar XJ220. Players can race through five exotic locales featuring accurate recreations of real-world international locations: San Francisco, Keswick in the English Lake District, Bern, Switzerland, Kyoto, Japan and Washington, D.C. -- all in a highly detailed driving environment, including traffic and police chases. The PC version of the game will include a bonus track, letting you race down the autobahn in Munich, Germany.

Test Drive 4 for the PC includes multiplayer capability for two-six players via serial cable, modem and LAN. It will ship with 3DFX and software-only versions. Test Drive 4 for the PlayStation will support multiple players via Link Cable and "ghost car" duel matches. Racing modes include single race competition, four different league modes and multiplayer tournaments. Test Drive 4 is available at an estimated street price of \$49.95 for both platforms.

Largest PC Games Center to Open

SlamSite Inc. is preparing to open the world's largest PC-based network games center in City of Industry, California, 13 miles outside of downtown

Los Angeles. The 15,000-square-foot facility, set to open on Nov. 14, features over 100 high-powered PCs networked together with a 100M bps backbone that allows gamers to play at Warp speed. The entire system is connected to the Internet with a T-1 trunk that also allows extremely fast play over the Internet.

"SlamSite is an obvious next step in the growth of the computer industry, says Frank Westall, SlamSite's Founder and CEO. "Companies such as Gameworks and Disney Quest recognize that electronic entertainment is meant to be themed and brought to the masses. The difference between these operations and SlamSite is in the technology. We believe that Intel, Microsoft, 3DFX, Rendition and today's computer game developers such as Activision, and id Software have a technological and creative lead in the critical areas that make up the gaming environment. We're placing our belief in their hands, as opposed to the closed-platform arcade-type machines." SlamSite, based in Burbank, California, plans to open an estimated 25 additional entertainment centers over the next several years. The next two locations are planned for San Jose, California, and New York, both scheduled to open in early 1998.

AMD(R) Professional Gamers' League(TM) Names Bushnell

Electronic Entertainment Visionary Nolan Bushnell Appointed Chief of the AMD PGL(TM) SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 3 /PRNewswire/ -- The AMD(R) Professional Gamers' League(TM) (PGL(TM)) today disclosed the appointment of its first commissioner and governing board. The AMD PGL, the first pro sports league for computer game enthusiasts, begins its inaugural season today, with the opening of a month-long player qualification period. Nolan Bushnell, creator of Pong, founder of Atari, and considered by many as "the father of electronic entertainment," will serve as the league's first commissioner. A six-member governing board, comprised of entertainment and technology industry veterans, will support the commissioner on league issues, make course-of-action recommendations, and more. More information on the AMD PGL can be found at <http://www.pgl.net>.

"I'm truly pleased and proud to be appointed commissioner of the PGL for its first year, and I believe that the PGL can do great things for computer entertainment in general and online gaming in particular," said Nolan Bushnell. "The potential of the league is to raise computer gaming to the level of a true pro sport with broad distribution and mass spectator appeal. As new games and game categories are added in future seasons, the PGL will also evolve into a platform for competitive socialization on the Internet, with people from all walks of life participating," stated Bushnell. The league's six-member governing board will consist of a stellar cast of computer gaming, sports management and technology luminaries. The board members are:

- ' • Jack Heistand, President and CEO, TEN
- ' • S. Atiq Raza, Executive Vice President and CTO, Advanced Micro Devices
- ' • Scott Miller, Co-Founder and CEO, 3D Realms/Apogee
- ' • Brett Sperry, President and CEO, Westwood Studios, and VP, Worldwide Operations, Virgin Interactive Entertainment
- ' • Peter Molyneux, Managing Dir./Founder, LionHead Studios (and founder of Bullfrog Productions)
- ' • Erik van Dillen, Senior Corporate Vice President, IMG

(Bushnell, Miller, Sperry and Molyneux represent four of the "Fifteen Most Influential People in the History of Electronic Entertainment," according to a recent Computer Gaming World article.) "Great computer gamers are

like great artists - highly skilled in a particular craft, and truly a breed apart," said Peter Molyneux, member of the PGL's governing board and co-founder of LionHead Studios. "The PGL concept is unique and appropriate: bringing established and aspiring superstars together, and giving them a place to showcase and reward their talents. I'm pleased and proud to be a member of the PGL governing board, and look forward to a thrilling inaugural season.

"As official host network of the AMD PGL, Total Entertainment Network(TM) (TEN(TM)), will support the commissioner and board on a tactical level, with assistance from newly-signed consulting firms Gamers EXtreme and ClanRing. A players' advisory board, also announced today (see separate release, "Professional Gamers' League Inaugural Season Opens Today"), will report to the governing board on player-related issues such as rule and structure changes. The seven-member player's advisory board, which will be made up entirely of PGL players, will also give feedback on, among other issues, which software titles should be considered as official PGL games in future seasons. They will be appointed immediately following the first season's qualification period, by their peers from the 256 players who make the cut for the inaugural season.

The open qualification period for the first season of the AMD PGL begins today and ends November 30, with league play officially starting December 9. To participate in the PGL, players must register for the PGL at <http://www.pgl.net> and either subscribe to the TEN service or pay the PGL entry fee of \$9.95 per three-month season.

NPD Reports Video Game Sales Hit Fourth Quarter

PORT WASHINGTON, N.Y. (Nov. 6) BUSINESS WIRE - Nov. 6, 1997 - Early indications are that happy holidays are ahead for the video game industry. On the heels of strong growth during the first three quarters of the year, early fourth quarter data show continued positive sales momentum, according to leading marketing information firm The NPD Group Inc.

NPD reported that for the first two weeks of October (Oct. 5- 18), approximately 340,000 video game consoles were sold at retail in the U.S. This represents a significant increase over the first two weeks of the previous month, and a strong start to the critical fourth quarter. For the first two weeks of September (Aug. 31 - Sept. 13), sales totaled 275,000 units. Total U.S. retail sales of video games were up 60 percent during the first three quarters of 1997, compared to the first three quarters of 1996.

Industry Headed for All-Time High

Ed Roth, president of Leisure Activities Tracking Services for NPD, maintains that strong performance in the first nine months of the year coupled with positive results for early October bode well for the industry. "With video games always selling best in the fourth calendar quarter, October often is a clear indicator of industry sales for the remaining holiday season," he commented.

Total U.S. retail sales volume for video games reached \$3.7 billion in 1996, and Roth believes the industry could be headed toward an all-time high of between \$5.2 billion and \$5.3 billion for 1997. "Lower hardware and software prices, a better selection of software, greater product availability, and the development and marketing of a number of great games are all contributing to a banner year for the U.S. video game industry," he commented. "The momentum is likely to continue into 1998, where we should

see a continuing upwards sales trend for the 32/64-Bit 'next generation' of video games."

Top Sellers Named

Both Sony's PlayStation and the Nintendo 64 continued to perform well at retail, with these two systems dominating the best selling hardware and software charts. "October marks the first time both the PlayStation and Nintendo 64 have a full year's worth of comparable sales. And both leading systems have now achieved a much greater distribution level at more affordable prices than ever before," said Roth.

The top 25 games for the first two weeks of October were all for use on either the Sony PlayStation or Nintendo 64. Of the top 25 games, 16 were for the PlayStation, although Goldeneye 007 for the Nintendo 64 was the best selling game overall, averaging \$61 at retail. A number of third party publishers benefited from the current industry boom. Third party publishers with games that sold well in the first two weeks of the fourth quarter 1997 include: Acclaim, Activision, ASCII Entertainment, Capcom, Electronics Arts, Fox Interactive, GT Interactive, Konami, Midway, Namco and Ocean.

ONLINE WEEKLY STReport OnLine

The wires are a hummin'!

PEOPLE... ARE TALKING

Compiled by Joe Mirando
jmirando@streport.com

Hidi ho friends and neighbors. It's been a fairly quiet week. Except for the fact that the weekly Atari Advantage conference has hit 'the big time', there really isn't too much to rant and rave about. What do I mean about 'the big time'? Well way back when, when a far smaller percentage of the general population knew what an online conference was, Delphi (and just about every other online service) simply left conference announcements up to the forum sysop. This was fine back then. If it was something you would have been interested in, you would have seen the banner when you entered the forum. If you didn't have a Delphi account, you couldn't attend anyway.

But all that changed when Delphi made it possible for even non-members to join in on chats via the internet. Now it is necessary to let people know the when, where, why, and who of the conference. So Delphi put up a special area that is available from their main menu that lists all of the current conferences. Using this area you can, even from the internet and without being a member, view and participate in any of the conferences going on. For software related reasons you cannot access the Atari Advantage conference directly from the new area, but it will at least tell you if the conference is going on. You can then go to the Atari Advantage

area and access the conference from there. The problem was that, until this past week, it wasn't possible to list the Atari conference in the Conference Menu. But all that has now changed and you can access the conference whether you are a Delphi member or not, even over the internet.

Bob and Terry host the conference every Tuesday evening at 10:00 eastern time. Drop by and say hello. Or reminisce about the 'good old days' when Atari was a contender in the computer world. Well, since I spent the past several paragraphs talking about Delphi, I guess we should take a look at what's going on in their message bases. Let's see...

From Delphi's Atari Advantage

In answer to a question about connecting an ST to a PC, George Iken posts:

"There are a couple of ways to connect a PC to an ST for "parallel port" transfers (as opposed to nulll modem "serial port" transfers, the parallel port is MUCH faster). BUT, there is NO method of connecting the Zip drive to the ST parallel port. This is because the "parallel port" transfer cable uses a different set of connections (which are present on the ST) than the Zip drive connections (all of which are NOT present on the ST).

Let me know if you want to connect between computers with the parallel port (I don't because the ST parallel port is direct wired to a chip .. no isolators). The sites for parallel port copying are on Hallvard's "hardware" site jump page."

Domingo Alvear posts:

"ICD Just came out with ICD SCSI Pro 7.0.0. Just thought you might like to know."

"Turbo" Nick tells Dom:

"Yes, at the MIST AtariFest this summer (Indianapolis, July) one of my users' group members mentioned to me that they had heard that ICD had a new version of "Pro" in the works. ICD had a table there, so I asked them and they said "yes." When asked how much the upgrade was (from version 6.5.5), they said that it wasn't an upgrade, but a whole new version, so they were charging full price for it (now I've forgotten what that price is - I only this year starting using "Pro" so I wasn't itching to upgrade yet). They said that it wasn't out yet, but, if I recall correctly, they would take advance orders. It's good to hear that they have actually published it. Good ol' ICD [or bad ol' ICD, I guess some folks don't like them?], they haven't abandoned us yet..."

Michael Burkley tells Nick:

"I just stopped by the ICD Web site. They are selling the ICD Pro Software v.7.0 for \$39.95 as an upgrade to any other (or previous) version of a commercial hard drive software."

Nick tells Michael:

"Yep... I saw that too. (I was sending mail to my users' group members about Pro 7.0.0 being available, and I decided on the spot to check their web site... this was at work, where I have not only a multitasking OS [Solaris], but a Sparcstation 5 to run it on. ;-)

I think I'll pass for now as I just installed 6.5.5 this summer (after buying it at the MIST AtariFest in '96, after thinking about it at the MIST AtariFest in '95, which is when I was thinking about the new ZIP drives and Tom/? at ICD's table steered me away from those...).

I could use a bigger hard drive, though. Do you have any recommendations for a hard drive for a TT? (I'm still using the original 80-megger and it's getting more than a bit cramped. ;-) I'm not looking for the largest possible drive, even a half-gig would do me for quite some time I'm sure, since I don't collect nearly as many files as you do (not even within 2 orders of magnitude, I suspect."

Lonnie McClure posts this about those "good old days":

"One of the things I miss from my days of dial-up access to Delphi is using Flash II on my Falcon to access the forums in text mode.

While HyperTerminal v3.0 makes a decent application for reading messages, when it comes time to compose a reply or new post, it exhibits severe localized negative atmospheric pressure. <grin>

The choices are either the type in directly to the terminal screen, with all the usual attendant problems plus telnet lag, or opening notepad, composing there, highlighting the text, selecting cut, minimize notepad, select "paste to host" in HT.

Compare this to the simplicity of switching to the integrated capture buffer/editor in Flash II, typing in the message, highlighting it if the buffer is not already empty, and hitting the appropriate function key I have predefined.

Does anyone know of a telnet program for the PC that offers similar or identical functionality, without costing a bundle?

It has gotten so frustrating at times that I have considered searching to see if there is a Win95 app that would allow my Falcon to be connected as a terminal to a shell account running on my PC. (I know this can be done with Linux, but firing up both my Falcon and Flash II, and switching OS's on my PC and another app there everytime I wanted to log into Delphi would be a wee bit much)."

Gordie Meyer tells Lonnie:

"It's not quite Flash II, but NetTerm ain't half bad, especially for telnetting in. I found it when I got my first Windows box, liked it enough to register and did so. Along with my registration, I suggested adding a type-ahead buffer of some kind, to facilitate use in live chat/conferences. They added a floating text entry window within a week, and then added one to the bottom of the terminal window, just like good ol' Interlink, about four days later. Made me real happy I'd registered the program.

The URL for those folks is:

```
{<http: starbase.neosoft.com="" ~zkrr01="">  
http://starbase.neosoft.com/~zkrr01/ }
```

Give it a try. I think you'll find it very usable."

John Trautschold of Missionware Software tells Gordie (and Lonnie):

"You could always purchase Gemulator for your PC and run Flash II there. that's what I do when I must use my PC for telecom."

Michael Burkley jumps in and asks John:

"How do you use GEMulator when you are connected online through your PC? I use STalker (oops!) which is fine for GEMulator, but if I am connected using the PC side of the computer I can't do anything with STalker. The COM port is "in use." How do you use Flash to telnet? Perhaps I am misunderstanding what you are saying. Do you mean just accessing online services just through Delphi or some BBS?

I don't really know what I'm talking about!"

John replies to Michael:

"Well, right. If Windows itself has the com port tied up then Gemulator won't have access to it (unless you have more than one com port on your PC - you can then assign one to Gemulator and use the other in Windows).

You can't use Flash II as a telnet client - you need to be able to log into a provider that supports shell accounts. They, then, provide the telnet, or ftp, or whatever, client you need. Flash II then uses one of those clients, in VT100 mode, to access the internet.

You can use Delphi to access the internet too - I believe Delphi provides telnet, ftp and web clients that will work with Flash II. (I have used those clients on BIX, a sister operation to Delphi.)"

Lonnie McClure asks John:

"So Flash II does work under Gemulator?

I seem to recall coming across a utility for the PC somewhere that allows any standard term program to act as a telnet app. I may look into trying such a convoluted setup and see if it will actually function. <grin>"

John tells Lonnie:

"Yes, Flash II, at least the current release, works fine with Gemulator. I've used it a lot on the road with my laptop."

Jim Collins of chroMAGIC Software Innovations tells us:

"I just wanted to let everybody know that System Solutions has confirmed that the complete ENGLISH language version of CAB 2.5 is FINALLY ready to ship. chro_MAGIC has several full packages and upgrades kits on order. Given our past experience with getting product from SS, we hope to be able to ship CABs by sometime next week (before Halloween we hope!).

For those who have pre-ordered an UPGRADE from CAB 2.0, you will need to send in your original manual and disk before we can ship your order. You get a new manual, your original disk gets updated and you get an additional disk.

One last thing about CAB, the press release I saw for it mentioned it required MagiC but was not clear on if it would work with other multi-taskers (MiNT, Geneva, etc). The info previously released by the CAB author suggested that any multi-tasker would/should/might? work. I suppose we will just have to wait until CAB arrives to see just what it does require in the way of a multi-tasker.

Oh yeah, upgrades to HD Driver 7 are also on the way in the same shipment as the CABs. They also require that the original HD Driver manual and disks be returned to chro_MAGIC.

Questions about CAB 2.5 or HD Driver 7
call +1-417-623-7393 or 1-888-660-4041 or look at
<http://www.chromagic.com/> "

My friend Alejandro Aguilar tells Jim:

"The part that only works with MagiC is PPP-Connect (actually called IConnect). ASH says that if you want to use CAB with other OS's you can use Stik or Sting, and all you need to do is replace the CAB.OVL file provided with 2.5 with an older one (ie one that will also work with CAB 1.5 or 2.0)."

"Chromer" asks for help in downloading the latest version of STinG:

"...It just wouldn't download, I have no idea what the problem is. I tried to DL and after a couple of seconds, I was told the DL was successful, maybe I will try again and see what happens... I thought maybe other people were having the same problem..."

It seems to be the latest file in the Recent arrivals. That is the only file I have had problems with. I am using Freeze Dried Terminal and I have a Mega 1040. Using ZModem. Actually that is the first time I have had any problems here. Can't figure it out. I kinda thought it might be a problem on Delphi's end."

Since I have encountered this problem before, I tell Chromer:

"Check the directory that the file is being downloaded to first to make sure that there isn't already a file there with the same name. For some reason, Delphi doesn't like to overwrite pre-existing files no matter what you have your download settings set to do (at least that's the case with the version of Flash 2 that I've got).

If you do find a pre-existing file with the same name, either move it to another location or (my preference) rename it to something like STING.ZI1 so that you know that it's a STinG archive, that it's ZIPped, and that it's the first copy you downloaded."

Chromer tells me:

"You know, I think you may be right, I thnk I do have an old DL of STing in tha path.I will check."

The Atari Advantage Big Kahuna, Dana Jacobson, tells Chromer:

"Just do as Joe mentioned and re-name the old file if it's worth saving. If not, just delete it. I've found more files that I couldn't download because of that!! I could enable an automatic "overwrite existing file" via Flash II, but I'm always afraid that I may overwrite something I want to save."

I tell Dana:

"You just saved yourself a couple of minutes of head-scratching, Dana. No matter what I have the Zmodem configurations set at, Delphi will not send a file that is already found in the download directory.

I seem to remember John Trautschold saying that this was indeed the case, and that it was strange because Flash II's implimentation of Zmodem was developed with help from one of the gurus at BIX (Delphi's sister service)."

Dana replies:

"I seem to recall John being part of that discussion also. It never really bothered me much that "resume" didn't work here, especially with the speeds climbing. However, it would be nice for those _really big_ files that somehow always 'blip' 3/4 of the way through transfer! <grin>

John Trautschold of MissionWare Software (the Flash II folks) posts:

"...We've never been able to figure out why resumes don't work here since they seem to work fine every where else.

Peter Olsen is the BIX/Delphi contact I've worked with in the past. Resumes *do* work on BIX, but not here. Then again, BIX is run with totally different software on totally different hardware."

I tell John:

"Thanks for the confirmation. At least now we know that resumes don't work here. It's never been more than a minor annoyance for me, but then again I had one of my favorite Atari vendors to 'splain it to me. <grin>

Well folks, that's it for this week. Tune in again next week, same time, same station, and be ready to listen to what they are saying when...

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

EDITORIAL QUICKIES

'Lest We Forget...

Veterans Day
WW-1 Armistice signed

[S]ilicon [T]imes [R]eport
HTTP://WWW.STREPORT.COM
Every Week; OVER 250,000 Readers WORLDWIDE

All Items quoted, in whole or in part, are done so under the provisions of The Fair Use Law of The Copyright Laws of the U.S.A. Views, Opinions and Editorial Articles presented herein are not necessarily those of the editors/staff of STReport International OnLine Magazine. Permission to reprint articles is hereby granted, unless otherwise noted. Reprints must, without exception, include the name of the publication, date, issue number and the author's name. STR, CPU, STReport and/or portions therein may not be edited, used, duplicated or transmitted in any way without prior written permission. STR, CPU, STReport, at the time of publication, is believed reasonably accurate. STR, CPU, STReport, are trademarks of STReport and STR Publishing Inc. STR, CPU, STReport, its staff and contributors are not and cannot be held responsible in any way for the use or misuse of information contained herein or the results obtained therefrom.

STReport "YOUR INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCE" November 07, 1997
Since 1987 Copyright©1997 All Rights Reserved Issue No. 1344